



Mexico planted biotech crops since 1996, and is one of the six pioneer biotech planting countries. In 2017, biotech cotton was the only biotech crop planted in the country.

In 2017, biotech cotton was the only biotech crop planted in Mexico at 110,018.54 hectares by around 8,000 farmers, compared to the biotech area in 2016 when Mexico planted 101,000 hectares of biotech crops.

The adoption rates for biotech cotton in 2017 is 100%, compared to 98% in 2016.

Of the total 110,018.54 hectares of biotech cotton planted in Mexico in 2017, 3,681.04 hectares were herbicide tolerant (HT), and 106,337.5 were stacked HT and insect resistant (IR).

Biotech soybean planting was suspended in the country in 2017 following a court injunction. At the same time, a court injunction against biotech maize field trials continues to affect producers and the scientific community.

ADOPTION OF BIOTECH CROPS

Mexico's total cotton area increased from 97,000 hectares in 2016 to 110,000 hectares in

2017, a 13% increase which was expected because of the return to cotton planting after a year of crop rotation with feed crops.

Since 1996, Mexico has approved 170 events for food, feed, and cultivation: alfalfa (5), Argentine canola (13), cotton (31), maize (75), potato (13), rice (1), soybeans (26), sugar beets (1), and tomato (5). In 2017, the following biotech events were approved for food use: 5 maize events (IR stacked -Bt 11 x MIR163, and IR/HT stacks - Bt11 x MIR162 x MON89034 x GA21, Bt11 x TC1507 GA21, MON89034 x TC1507 x NK603 x MIR162, and MON87427 MON89034 x MIR162 x MON87411) and 2 soybean events (glufosinate/dicamba tolerant MON87708 x MON89789 x A5547-127 and modified oil/dicamba tolerant MON87705 x MON87708 x MON89788).

Currently, there are pre-commercial evaluation trials for cotton events: Bollgard III x Dicamba/Glufosinate tolerant (DGT) cotton x Roundup Ready Flex® (RRF) at 107.2 hectares and DGT x RRF at 39.66 hectares.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH COTTON IN MEXICO

Mexico is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops by US\$553 million from 1996 to 2016, and US\$62 million for 2016 alone (Brookes and Barfoot, 2018).

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2017. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017: Biotech Crop Adoption Surges as Economic Benefits Accumulate in 22 Years. *ISAAA Brief* No. 53. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

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