



Mexico planted biotech cotton since 1996, with 98% adoption rate in 2016.

In 2016, Mexico planted 101,000 hectares of biotech crops, down from 141,000 hectares in 2015, comprised of 97,000 hectares of biotech cotton, and 4,000 hectares of biotech soybean.

The adoption rates for biotech cotton is 98%, and 2% for biotech soybean.

Of the total 99,000 hectares of cotton planted in Mexico in 2016, 97,000 hectares is biotech. Of this area, 93,000 hectares are stacked and 4,000 hectares are herbicide tolerant (HT).

ADOPTION OF BIOTECH CROPS

Mexico's total soybean area increased from 188,000 hectares in 2015 to 211,000 hectares in 2016, a 12% increase due to the normal weather conditions during the year. However, adoption of biotech soybean went down as expected from 18,000 hectares in 2015 to 4,000 hectares in 2016, because of the negative impact brought by EU's ruling on honey entering EU.

Since 1996, Mexico has approved 158 biotech events for food/feed use and cultivation: alfalfa (5 events), Argentine canola (13), cotton (30), maize (68), potato (13), rice (1), soybean (22), sugar beet (1), and tomato (5).

A legal ban on planting biotech maize in Mexico was introduced in 2013, which was overturned in August 2015 by a court decision that was appealed later in the year.

In March 2016, a federal judge decided to allow the cultivation of biotech maize for experimental purpose only, and not for cultivation.

It is hoped that Mexico will adopt a national, science-based strategy that will protect the centers of origin of maize, and will ensure that Mexico will benefit from biotech maize which can contribute to national food security and mitigate new challenges, such as more frequent and severe droughts.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH CROPS IN MEXICO

Mexico is estimated to have enhanced farm income from biotech crops by US\$489 million in the period 1996 to 2015, and US\$77 million for 2015 alone.

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2016. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2016. *ISAAA Brief No. 52*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

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