



Myanmar planted insect resistant Bt cotton varieties *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9* on ~325,000 hectares in 2016.

Myanmar has significantly benefited from planting insect resistant Bt cotton variety *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9*.

In 2016, *Ngwe chi-6* and *Ngwe chi-9* were planted on 325,000 hectares, equivalent to an adoption rate of 93%. Both Bt cotton varieties express the *cry1Ac* gene, and effectively controlled the infestation of *Helicoverpa armigera*, a major cotton pest in Myanmar.

Around 460,000 small farmers (average of 0.7 hectare of cotton farm per farmer) planted Bt cotton in Myanmar in 2016.

Myanmar enacted "The PyidaungsuHluttaw Law No. 15, 2016" or "The New Plant Variety Protection Law 2016" in 2016. The new law would come into force from the day of completion, one year after promulgation. It aims to protect the rights of breeders of new plant varieties, develop plant breeding activities, encourage investments in and develop breeding of new plant varieties in

both public and private sectors, and assist agricultural sector development by producing and cultivating new improved varieties.

BENEFITS OF BT COTTON IN MYANMAR

In the last 11 years (2006 to 2016), smallholder cotton farmers in Myanmar rapidly adopted Bt cotton variety *Ngwe chi-6* which replaced almost all conventional cotton varieties. The large scale adoption of *Ngwe chi-6* significantly increased the total area under long staple cotton in the country.

Myanmar for the first time in 2015, planted its new home-grown Bt cotton variety *Ngwe chi-9* on 60 hectares. Myanmar's National Seed Committee (NSC) officially registered and approved the commercial cultivation of insect resistant cotton *Ngwe chi-9* developed by the Department of Industrial Crops Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Estimates indicated that enhanced farm income from Bt cotton in Myanmar is US\$308 million for the period 2006 to 2015 and the benefits for 2015 alone at US\$47 million.

SOURCE

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

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