

BIOTECH COUNTRY  
FACTS & TRENDS

# South Africa



**SOUTH AFRICA** was one of the top 10 countries that planted biotech crops in 2019, with an area of **2.68 MILLION HECTARES**.

2019 marked South Africa's **22 YEARS** of commercial cultivation of biotech crops. This year, **THREE PRINCIPAL BIOTECH** crops were planted in the country, including **MAIZE, SOYBEANS,** and **COTTON** with average adoption rate of 93%.



A study conducted by Gastrow et al. in 2018 reveals that South Africans are more positive about the health implications of GM food, less critical about the environmental impact, and more positive about the economic consequences of GM food than Europeans.



It is estimated that the economic gains from biotech crops for South Africa for the period 1998 to 2018 was ~US\$2.4 billion and US\$153.8 million for 2018 alone.



For more information, visit:

[www.isaaa.org](http://www.isaaa.org)

Sources:  
ISAAA. 2019. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2019. *ISAAA Brief* No. 55.  
ISAAA, 2017. Biotech Country Facts & Trends: South Africa.  
Brookes, G. and P. Barfoot. 2020. GM Crops: Global Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts 1996-2018.