

BIOTECH CROP
ANNUAL UPDATES

Cotton

IN THE PHILIPPINES



The research and development on **Bt COTTON** in the Philippines is led by the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA).

Bt COTTON is a genetically modified cotton resistant to bollworm. It contains the Bt fusion gene GFM *cry1A* from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

In the Philippines, Bt cotton is expected to help farmers reduce pesticide use and increase yield and income as more harvestable bolls are retained.

After rigorous biosafety assessment pursuant to the DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular (JDC) No. 1, Series of 2021, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) issued a **Biosafety Permit for the Commercial Propagation of Bt Cotton** to PhilFIDA on August 24, 2023.

On May 7, 2024, PhilFIDA held the first Bt Cotton Harvest Festival in Batac City, Ilocos Norte. The ceremonial harvesting of cotton was attended by cotton farmers, weavers, researchers, and representatives from the national and local government agencies and the academe.

With Bt cotton adoption, PhilFIDA projects a **TRIPLE YIELD INCREASE FROM 1MT TO 3MT**, ensuring a stable supply of locally produced cotton yarns for Filipino weavers.

The commercial propagation of Bt cotton, which will be promoted alongside the heirloom cotton and organic cotton production technology, is expected to catalyze the revival of the Philippine cotton industry.



For more information, visit:

www.isaaa.org

Sources:

Festival Celebrates Bountiful Bt Cotton Harvest for Filipino Farmers and Weavers (<https://tinyurl.com/u2vy225d>)

Philippines Approves Bt Cotton for Commercial Propagation (<https://tinyurl.com/34ndn63p>)

Pinoy Biotek Magazine Vol. 2 No. 1 (<https://tinyurl.com/PinoyBiotekMagazine>)



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