The area planted to biotech cotton in 2018 was 24.9 million hectares, an increase of 3% from 24.1 million hectares in 2017. The increase in total biotech cotton area was due mainly to the improved global market value and the high adoption rate of stacked insect resistant and herbicide tolerant (IR/HT) cotton in 2018.

The 24.9 million hectares comprised 18.14 million hectares IR, 757,000 hectares HT, and 5.97 million hectares IR/HT.

Based on a global cotton area of 32.9 million hectares, 76% were biotech cotton and grown in 15 of the 26 biotech crop countries worldwide.

Five of the 15 countries that grew biotech cotton in 2018 planted more than 1 million hectares. These countries were India (11.6 million hectares), USA (5.06 million hectares), China (2.93 million hectares), Pakistan (2.8 million hectares), and Brazil (1 million hectares).

Another 10 countries grew biotech cotton in 2018 including Argentina, Myanmar, Australia, Sudan, Mexico, South Africa, Paraguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Kingdom of eSwatini, the most recent addition to the number of countries planting biotech cotton.

Four new biotech cotton events were approved in 2018, including Event 281-24-236 x 3006-210-23 x COT102 with IR stacked traits and T304-40 x GHB119 x COT102 in Brazil, GHB811 HT event in Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the USA, and MON88702 single IR trait in

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the USA.

**BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH COTTON**

The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech cotton from 1996 to 2016 was US$52 billion and US$3.4 billion for 2015 alone (Brookes and Barfoot, 2018).

**SOURCE**