



BIOTECH CROP ANNUAL UPDATES

Maize

Biotech maize was planted in 59.7 million hectares in 2017, a slight decrease of 1% from 2016. The area planted to biotech maize fluctuated in 2017 due to unfavorable weather conditions in Latin America, low market price, lesser pest incidence, high year-end stocks, and the problem of counterfeit seeds in the Philippines.

Of the global hectareage of 188 million hectares of maize grown in 2017, 32% (59.7 million hectares) were biotech maize.

The 59.7 million hectares comprised 5.3 million hectares insect resistant (IR), 6.3 million hectares herbicide tolerant (HT), and 48.1 million hectares stacked IR/HT maize.

There were 14 countries which grew biotech maize in 2017, including the United States of America (33.8 million hectares), Brazil (15.6 million hectares), Argentina (5.2 million hectares), Canada (1.5 million hectares), and South Africa (1.9 million hectares). Countries which



planted less than one million hectares include the Philippines, Paraguay, Uruguay, Spain, Colombia, Vietnam, Honduras, Chile, and Portugal.

Czechia and Slovakia, which are member states of the EU, did not plant biotech maize in 2017 due to stringent reporting requirements for IR maize, the same reason that made Romania stop planting biotech maize in 2016.

BENEFITS FROM BIOTECH MAIZE

The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech maize during the 21-year period 1996 to 2016 was US\$63.7 billion and US\$6.9 billion for 2016 alone (Brookes and Barfoot, 2018).

SOURCE

ISAAA. 2017. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2017: Biotech Crop Adoption Surges as Economic Benefits Accumulate in 22 Years. *ISAAA Brief No. 53*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

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