

Success of GMO crops in neighboring countries may influence adoption in Ghana

Genetically engineered (GE) crops have a role to play in increasing agricultural productivity. However, efforts to promote genetic engineering agriculture in Africa have been met with some amount of resistance. Here, we report recent efforts to promote GE agriculture in Ghana... Ghana is currently running confined field trials of some selected GE crops, but analysis of ongoing genetically modified organism (GMO) debates and published opinions shows a considerable amount of opposition to GE agriculture and GMOs in Ghana. This notwithstanding, we suggest that Bt cotton cultivation in Burkina Faso—Ghana's immediate neighbor to the north—may play a role in eventually putting Ghana on the map of GE agriculture countries, a phenomenon reported elsewhere which we have described in this article as the 'next-door neighbor effect.' The biosafety implications of the 'next-door neighbor effect' are also discussed here. We conclude that the 'next-door neighbor effect'—in addition to corporate and political interests—will explain the entry of GE crops into some new markets.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: Towards Genetically Engineered Crops in Ghanaian Agriculture: Confined Field Trials and the 'Next-door Neighbor Effect' Theory