

Infographic: Global GM crops reduced farm chemical usage and CO2 emissions in 2016 boom year

[T]he International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) released its annual report showcasing the 110-fold increase in adoption rate of biotech crops globally in just 21 years of commercialization – growing from 1.7 million hectares in 1996 to 185.1 million hectares in 2016. ISAAA's report, "Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2016," continues to demonstrate the long-standing benefits of biotech crops for farmers in developing and industrialized countries, as well as consumer benefits of recently approved and commercialized varieties.

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Examining other benefits of biotechnology, ISAAA reports that the adoption of biotech crops has reduced CO2 emissions equal to removing approximately 12 million cars from the road annually in recent years; conserved biodiversity by removing 19.4 million hectares of land from agriculture in 2015; and decreased the environmental impact with a 19% reduction in herbicide and insecticide use.¹ Additionally, in developing countries, planting biotech crops has helped alleviate hunger by increasing the incomes for 18 million small farmers and their families, bringing improved financial stability to more than 65 million people.

GLOBAL STATUS OF COMMERCIALIZED BIOTECH/GM CROPS IN 2016



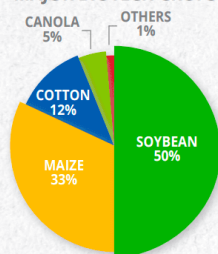
185.1 MILLION HECTARES
BIOTECH CROPS
IN **26** COUNTRIES
PLANTED BY **18** MILLION FARMERS
FASTEST ADOPTED CROP TECHNOLOGY IN RECENT TIMES

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GREW MORE BIOTECH CROPS IN 2016



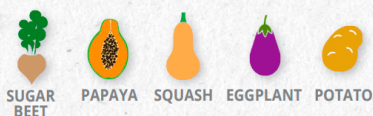
BIOTECH CROPS INCREASED ~110-FOLD FROM 1996-2016; ACCUMULATED AREA IS 2.1 BILLION HECTARES

MAJOR BIOTECH CROPS

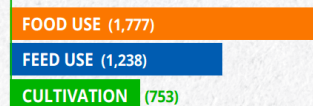


BIOTECH SOYBEAN
REACHED **50%** OF GLOBAL BIOTECH CROP AREA IN 2016

OTHER BIOTECH CROPS IN THE MARKET:



3,768 APPROVED EVENTS FOR BIOTECH CROPS IN 40 COUNTRIES (1994-2016)



MAIZE
HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF APPROVED EVENTS SINCE 1994
218 APPROVALS IN 29 COUNTRIES

BENEFITS OF BIOTECH CROPS

INCREASE CROP PRODUCTIVITY



CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY

PRODUCTIVITY GAINED THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY (1996-2016) HELPED SAVE

174 MILLION HECTARES
OF LAND FROM PLOUGHING & CULTIVATION



PROVIDE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



REDUCED PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS
DECREASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FROM HERBICIDE & INSECTICIDE USE BY **19%**

REDUCE CO2 EMISSIONS

REDUCED GREENHOUSE GASES & HELPED MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE. IN 2015, 26.7 BILLION KGS CO2 WAS SAVED EQUIVALENT TO REMOVING

~12 MILLION CARS OFF THE ROAD FOR 1 YEAR



HELP ALLEVIATE POVERTY & HUNGER

BIOTECH CROPS BENEFITED **18 MILLION SMALL FARMERS** AND THEIR FAMILIES TOTALING **>65 MILLION PEOPLE**



For more information, visit ISAAA website:

www.isaaa.org

Source: ISAAA. 2016. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2016. ISAAA Brief No. 52.



#GMCrops2016
#ISAAAReport2016

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Biotech/GM Crops Surge to a New Peak of 185.1 Million Hectares in 2016](#)