





































of 22 different crops developed in 41 different countries through transgenics (GMO), gene editing or other New Breeding Techniques. As the first of the two infographics illustrate, not all the countries that have introduced genetically modified crops over the past 28 years are still growing them, and some countries that still grow them have discontinued various crops for political or economic reasons.

For example, the first GMO crop commercialized in the US was the [FLAVR SAVR](#) tomato, engineered to extend its shelf life and minimize fruit softening. It fell short of expectations and its producer, Calgene, discontinued sales. Currently, 28 nations grow [nearly 200 million hectares](#) of genetically engineered plants every year, a [roughly 113-fold increase](#) from 1.7 million hectares in 1996. Biotech crops are the [fastest-adopted technology](#) in the history of modern agriculture.

The second infographic can be accessed by clicking on the purple box on the right side of the map, which launches an animation documenting when each of the 41 countries commercialized its first biotech crop.  
**[click on infographic to display pdf]**

## 41 Countries Planted Their First Genetically-Altered Crop, 1992-2020

2020		KENYA	COTTON
2020		NIGERIA	COTTON
2018		ESWATINI	COTTON
2015		VIETNAM	CORN
2014		BANGLADESH	EGGPLANT
2012		CUBA	CORN
2012		SUDAN	COTTON
2010		MYANMAR	COTTON
2010		PAKISTAN	COTTON
2010		SWEDEN	POTATO
2009		COSTA RICA	COTTON
2008		BOLIVIA	SOYBEAN
2008		EGYPT	CORN
2008		BURKINA FASO	COTTON
2007		POLAND	CORN
2006		SLOVAKIA	RICE
2005		IRAN	RICE
2005		CZECH REPUBLIC	CORN
2003		PARAGUAY	SOYBEAN
2003		PHILIPPINES	CORN
2003		COLOMBIA	COTTON
2003		BRAZIL	SOYBEAN
2002		BULGARIA	CORN
2002		HONDURAS	CORN
2002		INDIA	COTTON
2001		INDONESIA	COTTON
2000		URUGUAY	SOYBEAN
1999		UKRAINE	POTATO
1999		ROMANIA	SOYBEAN
1999		PORTUGAL	CORN
1999		GERMANY	CORN
1998		FRANCE	CORN
1998		SPAIN	CORN
1998		SOUTH AFRICA	COTTON
1996		MEXICO	SOYBEAN
1996		CHILE	CORN
1996		AUSTRALIA	COTTON
1996		ARGENTINA	SOYBEAN
1996		CANADA	CANOLA
1994		UNITED STATES	TOMATO
1992		CHINA	TOBACCO

Since 1992, 22 different crops have

The two graphics can be downloaded together [here](#), or you can download each graphic separately: [Where GMO Crops are Grown](#) or [41 Countries Planted Their First Genetically Altered Crop, 1992-2020](#).

An evolving story emerges from these infographics. While many nations have embraced genetic engineering and never looked back, 13 of 41 countries have stopped cultivating biotech crops altogether. [Burkina Faso, for example](#), under huge political pressure, halted the cultivation of GMO insect-resistant Bt cotton in 2015, leaving its farmers to face increased pesticide exposure and higher production costs.

Meanwhile, other nations, [like China](#), are close to [green-lighting many different](#) plant varieties, and import many GMO crops, but currently only allow their farmers to grow [a limited number of](#) genetically engineered crops. Because of this tangled regulatory web, just five nations—the US, Canada, Brazil, Argentina and India—cultivate [roughly 90 percent](#) of the world's total biotech crop acreage.

Nonetheless, the spread of crop biotechnology is a worldwide phenomenon, contra the rhetoric of many anti-GMO groups. Activist organizations like Greenpeace allege that biotech crops have been a flop throughout most of the world. This narrative is misleading since so many countries continue to approve and cultivate GMO and gene-edited crops, including developing nations such as [Kenya](#) and [Nigeria, which joined the GMO club in 2020](#). Both countries recently approved insect-resistant Bt cotton, while Nigeria also gave farmers the go ahead to plant an [insect-resistant cowpea](#).

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