

## GMO ‘halo effect’: How biotech crops benefit farmers who don’t grow them

Agricultural Economist Graham Brookes of PG Economics is the latest featured expert in the [ISAAA Webinar series](#). His talk focused on the latest [PG Economics’ report](#) on the economic and environmental impact of [genetically modified \(GM\) crops](#) globally for the past 23 years.

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Brookes emphasized the impact of GM crops which starts in the planting of GM crops in a specific area, and its widespread adoption helps not just the farmers who plant GM crops but those who plant the conventional counterparts as well, causing a “halo effect”. He cited the case of the [virus-resistant papaya](#) in Hawaii as an example, saying that its widespread adoption significantly reduced the effect of the virus in the islands.

This, in turn, enabled the non-GM papaya growers to also continue to grow their crops having benefited from the area-wide suspension of the virus, thereby helping save Hawaii’s papaya industry.

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