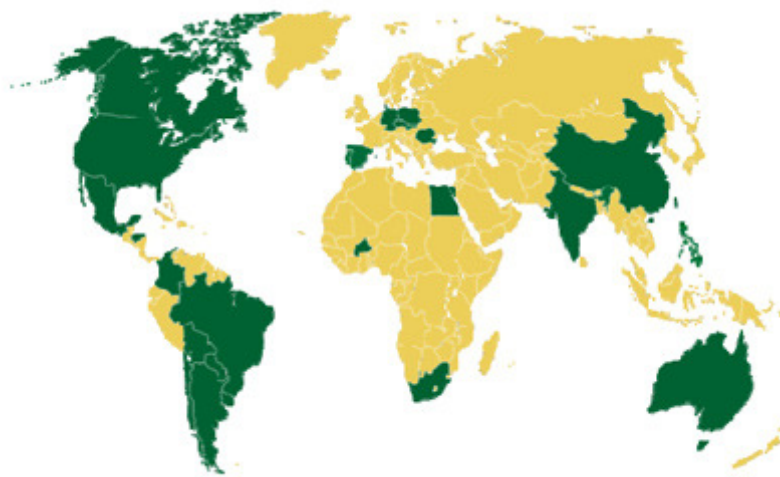


The Global Status of Biotech Crops 2008 (ISAAA Report)



25 countries which have adopted biotech crops

In 2008, global area of biotech crops was 125.0 million hectares, representing an increase of 9.4% over 2007, equivalent to 10.7 million hectares.

Source: Clive James, 2009.

Largest Biotech Countries

50,000 hectares (123,553 acres), or more

	Million Hectares	Million Acres
USA	62.5	154.4
Argentina*	21.0	51.9
Brazil*	15.8	39.0
India*	7.6	18.8
Canada	7.6	18.8
China*	3.8	9.4
Paraguay*	2.7	6.7
South Africa*	1.8	4.4
Uruguay*	0.7	1.7
Bolivia*	0.6	1.5
Philippines*	0.4	1.0
Australia	0.2	0.5
Mexico*	0.1	0.2
Spain	0.1	0.2

Less than 50,000 hectares

Chile*	Czech Republic	Poland
Colombia*	Romania	Slovakia
Honduras	Portugal	Egypt*
Burkina Faso	Germany	

* Developing countries

In 2008, **125 million hectares** of biotech crops were planted globally, equivalent to 8% of the 1.5 billion hectares of all cropland in the world. This is an increase from 2007 of 10.7 million hectares or 9.4%. More than half (55%) the world's population lives in the 25 countries planting biotech crops.

The number of biotech crop farmers increased by 1.3 million in 2008, reaching 13.3 million globally in 25 countries. 90%, or 12.3 million, were small and resource-poor farmers in developing countries.

In addition to the 25 countries that have approved the planting of biotech crops, another 30 countries have approved import of biotech products for food and feed use for a total of **55 approving countries**. 2008 saw three new countries, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, and Egypt, adopt biotech crops. A total of 670 approvals have been granted for 144 events for 24 crops.

Biotech crops in the EU

In 2008, seven of the 27 countries in the European Union officially planted insect-resistant Bt maize on a commercial basis. Excluding France, the total hectareage for the seven countries increased from 88,673 hectares in 2007 to 107,719 hectares in 2008.

This is equivalent to a 21% year-on-year increase equivalent to 19,046 hectares. Note that due to a politically motivated ban, French farmers were not allowed to grow biotech maize in 2008.

All seven EU countries increased their Bt maize hectareage in 2008 with over 100,000 hectares being grown despite France banning cultivation of biotech maize

Country vs year	2007 (hectares)	2008 (hectares)
Spain	75,148	79,269
France	21,147	-
Czech Republic	5,000	8,380
Portugal	4,500	4,851
Germany	2,285	3,173
Slovakia	900	1,900
Romania	350	7,146
Poland	320	3,000
Total	110,077 (or 88,673 excluding France)	107,719

Biotech crops and Sustainability

Biotech crops:

- Saved 14.2 billion kg of CO2 equivalent to 6.3 million less cars in 2007.
- Resulted in a 9% reduction in spraying, equivalent to 359,000 metric tons, since 1996
- Increased the efficiency of water usage. Field trials of drought tolerance have yielded up to 20% more than non-biotech counterparts.
- Contribute to sustainable economic benefits worth €34 billion from 1996 to 2007. 44% of which were due to substantial yield gains and 56% due to a reduction in production costs.

In India, biotech cotton in 2008:

- Increased crop yield by over 30%, contributing to higher productivity of arable land, safeguarding other areas for biodiversity.
- Decreased use of insecticides by nearly 40%
- Increased profitability by nearly 90% equivalent to €180 per hectare



The European Association for Bioindustries

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* All data from "2008 ISAAA Report on Global Status of Biotech/GM Crops" By Dr. Clive James, International Service for the Acquisition Of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA)
<http://www.isaaa.org>

EuropaBio's mission is to promote an innovative and dynamic biotechnology-based industry in Europe. EuropaBio, (the European Association for Bioindustries), has 68 corporate and 5 associate members operating worldwide, 4 Bioregions and 25 national biotechnology associations representing some 1800 small and medium sized enterprises.

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