



press clip

# GM crops on the up

THE global uptake of genetically modified crops continued to grow last year, according to a report released by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications.

More than 13 million farmers grew GM crops last year, compared to 12 million in 2007.

Three new countries — Burkina Faso (cotton), Egypt (corn) and Bolivia (soy) — planted GM crops for the first time, taking the total number of countries doing so to 25.

An additional 10.7 million hectares were planted last year, bringing the total to 125 million hectares.

Thirteen years ago, that figure was 1.7 million hectares.

ISAAA said Africa was the continent with the greatest and most urgent need for the technology.

The US, Argentina, Brazil, India and Canada continued to be the principal adopters of GM crops.

A new GM crop, Roundup-Ready sugar beet, tolerant to the herbicide glyphosate, was commercialised in both the US and Canada.

Five countries, including Australia, introduced GM crops that had already been commercialised in other countries.

Last year, 108 farmers planted GM canola in NSW and Victoria for the first time.

Genetically modified soybean continues to be the main crop grown, making up 53 per cent of the global GM area.

Thirty per cent of the total GM crop area was grown to corn, with cotton (12 per cent) and canola (5 per cent) making up the remainder.

Last year, herbicide-tolerant GM crops, (soybean, corn, canola, cotton and alfalfa) made up 63 per cent of the global GM market.

Stacked double and triple traits occupied 22 per cent of the GM crop area and insect-resistant varieties made up the remaining 15 per cent.

According to the report, food security and cost, sustainability, poverty and hunger could all be helped by the use of GM crops.

Further to this, GM crops could help mitigate some of the challenges of climate change.

The global value of GM crops was last year valued at \$US7.5 billion, up from \$US6.9 billion in 2007.

The market value of the global GM crop market is based on the sale price of the GM seed, plus technology fees.

Since the introduction of GM crops in 1996, the accumulated global value of GM crops is estimated at \$US50 billion.

The global market value of GM crops is expected to rise to \$US8.3 billion this year.

The ISAAA expects 15 or more countries to plant GM crops between now and 2015, bringing the total number of countries planting GM crops to 40.

Asia, eastern and southern Africa, West Africa,

North Africa and the Middle East are believed to be the new players.

Several new GM crops are expected between now and 2015.

ISAAA says pest and disease-resistant rice is awaiting approval in China and Golden Rice, which could help curb deficiencies such as Vitamin A, is expected to be available in 2012.

For more details, visit [www.isaaa.org](http://www.isaaa.org)



**Weekly Times (Vic)  
Wednesday 18/02/2009**

Page: 79  
Section: General News  
Region: VIC, AU  
Circulation: 70800  
Type: Rural  
Size: 359.88 sq.cms.



press clip  
→

