

### ISAAA Country Fact Sheet

- **India** experienced the **highest proportional increase** in 2007 for the third consecutive year with a 63 percent gain to total 15.3 million acres of Bt cotton, grown by 3.8 million resource-poor farmers. These gains have taken India from having one of the lowest cotton yields in the world to being a net cotton exporter, potentially 5 million bales in 2007/2008. In fact, subsistence farmer Mrs. Akkaplai who grows 3.2 acres of cotton in India said that before insect-resistant cotton, *“We were badly off and unable to afford anything properly. Finally cotton cultivation has actually turned profitable.”* These experiences led India’s Minister of Finance to recently state: *“It is important to apply biotechnology in agriculture. What has been done with cotton must be done with food grains.”*
- **China** increased Bt cotton production by 0.7 million acres to total 9.3 million acres, 69 percent of the country’s cotton area. A total of 7.1 million resource-poor farmers planted the biotech crop. Further, China has more than 8,500 acres of virus-resistant papaya and 250,000 Bt poplar trees which can contribute to reforestation.
- **Brazil** experienced **the greatest absolute growth** at 8.6 million acres to total 37 million acres of herbicide-tolerant soybeans and Bt cotton. These numbers are predicted to climb with the expected final approval and planting of biotech maize in 2008/2009. Brazil is fast **emerging as a global leader in biotech crops** with significant potential of applying the technology to sugarcane for ethanol production. Brazil has the largest area sugarcane globally at 15.3 million acres.
- **South Africa**, the only country in Africa planting biotech crops, increased plantings 30 percent in 2007 to total 4.4 million acres. Notably, nearly all growth came from white maize for food. Chief Mdutshane of Ixopos calls Bt white maize “iyasihluthisa” meaning “it fills our stomachs.” *“For the first time the Ixopos have produced enough to feed themselves.”*
- **Europe** surpassed 250,000 acres of biotech crops for the first time in 2007 with 77 percent growth. In EU, **8 of the 27 countries planted biotech crops** in 2007, up from 6 in 2006. Spain led the way with 172,900 acres of Bt maize, up 40 percent over 2006 to reach 21 percent of the country’s total maize area. The collective Bt maize area in the 7 other countries – France, Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany, Slovakia, Romania and Poland – increased four-fold from 21,400 acres in 2006 to 88,000 acres in 2007, albeit on modest areas.
- **Poland planted biotech crops for the first time and Chile joined the list** to total 23 countries enjoying the benefits of these crops in 2007.