

# Biotech Canola Annual Update

## In 2011

- The global area of biotech canola in 2011 increased by a significant 1.2 million hectares, from 7.0 million hectares in 2010 to 8.2 million hectares, a significant increase of 17% from 2010.
- Of the global hectareage of 31 million hectares of canola grown in 2011, 26%, or 8.2 million hectares were biotech, up from 23% and 7.0 million hectares in 2010.
- This increase is attributed to the addition of 1.4 million hectares in Canada offset by a modest decrease in the US and a static hectareage in Australia at 139,000 hectares.
- Canada was the largest grower of canola globally, has consistently increased reaching a record 96% in 2011 compared with 94% in 2010.
- Only four countries currently grow biotech canola: Canada, the USA, Australia and Chile, but the global hectareage and prevalence could increase significantly in the near term in response to the likely increased use of canola for vegetable oil and biodiesel.
- Less than 1% of the canola crop in Canada was used for biodiesel in 2008 and this is expected to remain low at around 2% until 2012 when new biodiesel plants come on stream.



## Biotech Canola Traits

- Herbicide tolerant canola was the fourth most dominant crop globally, occupying 8.2 million hectares, equivalent to 5% of global biotech crops
- HT canola was planted in four countries: Canada, USA, Australia and Chile.

## Benefits of Biotech Canola

- The increase in income benefits for farmers growing biotech canola during the 15 year period 1996 to 2010 was US\$2.7 billion and US\$0.5 billion for 2010 alone (Brookes and Barfoot, 2012).

### Source:

James, Clive. 2011. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2011. *ISAAA Brief No. 43*. ISAAA: Ithaca, New York.

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