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AGRICULTURE BIOTECHNOLOGY

Increasing Crop Yields for America's Biofuels

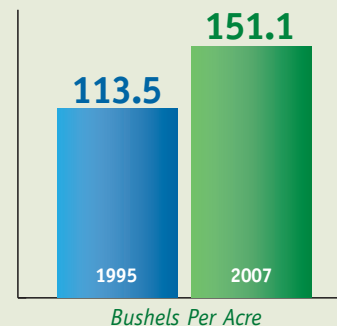
Did You Know?



Since the introduction of agricultural biotechnology, farmer's crop yields have increased dramatically in the United States. Crop yields are expected to continue increasing, allowing farmers to produce more corn, soybeans and other foodstuffs on the same number of acres—helping to provide sufficient supplies for both food and biofuels. Here are two examples:

CORN

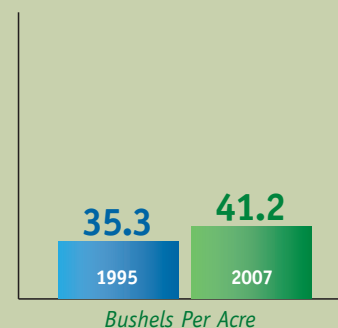
In the United States, where today 73% of the nation's corn acreage is planted with biotechnology varieties, yields have increased 33.1% since 1996, when the first biotech variety was commercially planted.



(Source: NASS;
United States
Department of
Agriculture.)

SOYBEANS

With about 90% of the U.S. soybean acreage now planted with biotech varieties, soybean yields have increased 16.7% between 1995 and 2007, from 35.3 bushels/acre to 41.2 bushels/acre.



(Source: NASS;
United States
Department of
Agriculture.)



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*Studies show that
biotech crops have
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441 million
gallons of fuel.*



In addition agricultural biotechnology contributes to reduced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions because these crop varieties require less plowing than non-biotechnology crops. This means farmers use less fuel, and therefore create lower levels of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Studies show that biotech crops have saved farmers 441 million gallons of fuel through reduced fuel operations—which has resulted in eliminating nearly 10.2 million pounds of CO₂ emissions since 1996. This savings is equal to removing 4 million cars from America's road in one year.

(Source: Brookes, Graham. 2006. Global Impact of Biotech Crops: Socio-Economic and Environmental Effects in the First Ten Years of Commercial Use.)

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ABOUT THE COUNCIL FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

The Council for Biotechnology Information communicates science-based information about the benefits and safety of agricultural and food biotechnology to sustainable development. Sustainable development seeks to balance and integrate immediate and long-term community needs. It helps enhance our quality of life today, as well as to protect, preserve, and fulfill our needs in the future. Sustainable agriculture is a key component of sustainable development, particularly because it allows for economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. In the United States agricultural biotechnology is contributing today to sustainable agricultural practices, and it has the potential to make even greater contributions in the future through production of biofuels to help meet energy needs; development of drought-tolerant plants to better preserve and manage water resources; and increased crop production to feed our nation and the world's growing population. CBI members are the leading agricultural biotechnology companies.