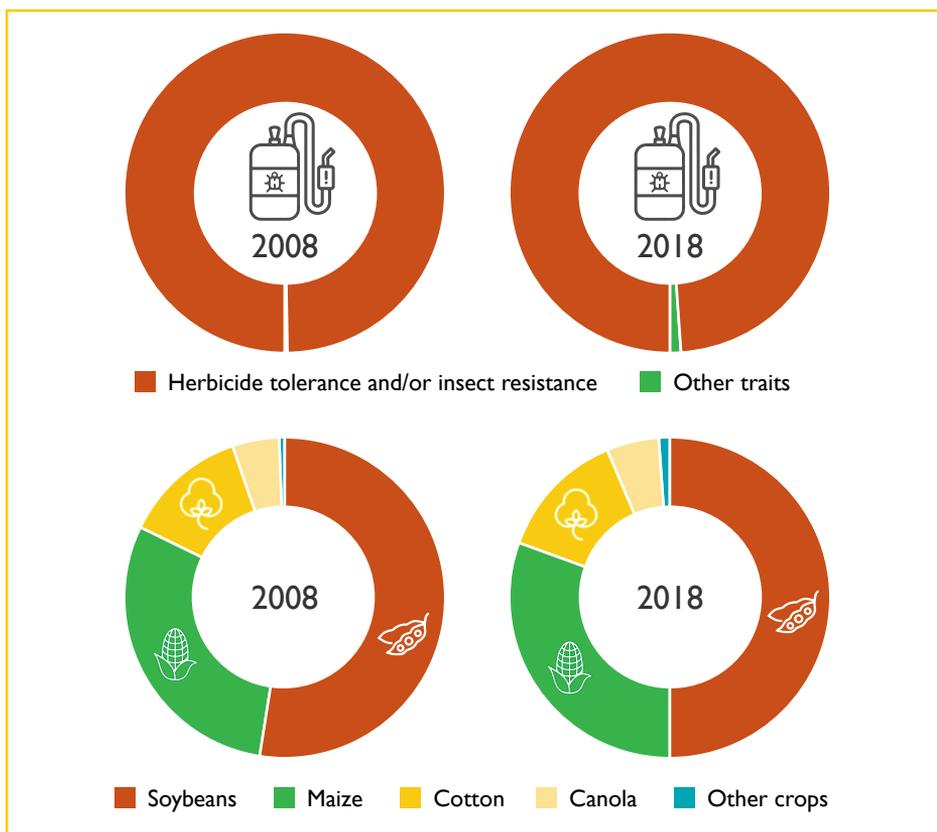


10-Year Comparison

GMOs: crops and traits



Global area of genetically modified crops in 2008 and 2018 by trait (above) and by crop type (below). Herbicide tolerance and/or insect resistance includes both single and stacked traits.

The same old story

Since their introduction in 1996, GMOs have been promoted as a panacea for tackling world hunger, malnutrition, poverty and drought. However, to date traits such as drought tolerance or enhanced provitamin A content have not yet been commercialised. Herbicide tolerance and insect resistance remain by far the dominant traits. In 2018, more than 99% of the 189.8 million hectares under cultivation with GMOs were planted with crops that were herbicide tolerant (45%), insect resistant (12%) or combined both traits (42%). The “Others” category includes a few hundred hectares of virus resistant papaya and squash. The cultivation of GM crops also remains limited to the same four crops: soybeans, maize, cotton and rapeseed. In 2018, 95.9 million hectares were planted with soybeans, followed by maize (58.9m ha), cotton (24.9m ha) and canola (10.1m ha).

Sources

International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA). Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops, editions 2008 and 2018 (ISAAA Brief 39-2008 and ISAAA Brief 54-2018)
<http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/default.asp>