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**“International Diffusion of Plant Biotechnology: An
Assessment”**

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ABSTRACT

Less than a decade after first commercialization, the international adoption and diffusion of biotech crops has now gone global, especially in developing countries. Worldwide biotech crop value reached \$44 billion in 2003-2004 in the five countries accounting for about 98 percent of all biotech crop hectares and values. The leading five countries in global biotech crop value in 2003-2004 were the United States (\$27.5 billion), Argentina (\$8.9 billion), China (\$3.9 billion), Canada (\$2.0 billion) and Brazil (\$1.6 billion). Four biotech crops – soybeans, cotton, maize and canola – accounted for virtually all of the biotech values and planted area. Eight other countries have joined the leading five in meaningful levels of commercial biotech crop production: South Africa, Mexico, Australia, India, Romania, Spain, Philippines, and Uruguay. When biotech plant R&D is arrayed for field crops, vegetables, fruits and other crops, it is clear that the technology is diffusing to many parts of the world. For example, 16 field crops have been the subject of biotech research or development in 55 countries.