

## Multiple-factor adoption of gm cotton in china: influence of conventional technology development and rural change in jiangsu province

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**Abstract**

The large diffusion of Genetically Modified Cotton (GMC) in China, namely Bt-Cotton, has been well evidenced but recent report on its reduced profitability raises the issue of long term adoption. This paper targets to point out that the adoption of Bt-Cotton in China has not depended only on its specific advantages in controlling pests. It focuses on the specific case of Jiangsu Province, along the Yangtze River Valley, for which the use of GMC is little reported in publications accessible to most scientists of the international community. The paper synthesizes the recent analyses published in Chinese from people involved either in research or in extension activities and it exploits the results of a survey implemented in 2005 as well as the data of the network of multi-location experiments of cotton varieties in the Yangtze River Valley. It comes out that in Jiangsu Province, the diffusion of GMC has benefited a lot from the modernization of the seed sector which has integrated Bt trait into hybrid cultivars which are perfectly adapted and profitable to the transplanting technique. In spite of a rather limited reduction in the cost of pest control, farmers should not abandon using Bt-Cotton, because the evolution of Chinese farming does not push cotton growers to be so much vigilant in optimizing their production costs, unless seed prices keeps on tremendously increasing. The continuation of a profitable use of GMC should require some move to better regulate the seed sector.

## English abstract

The large diffusion of Genetically Modified Cotton (GMC) in China, namely Bt-Cotton, has been well evidenced but recent report on its reduced profitability raises the issue of long term adoption. This paper targets to point out that the adoption of Bt-Cotton in China has not depended only on its specific advantages in controlling pests. It focuses on the specific case of Jiangsu Province, along the Yangtze River Valley, for which the use of GMC is little reported in publications accessible to most scientists of the international community. The paper synthesizes the recent analyses published in Chinese from people involved either in research or in extension activities and it exploits the results of a survey implemented in 2005 as well as the data of the network of multi-location experiments of cotton varieties in the Yangtze River Valley. It comes out that in Jiangsu Province, the diffusion of GMC has benefited a lot from the modernization of the seed sector which has integrated Bt trait into hybrid cultivars which are perfectly adapted and profitable to the transplanting technique. In spite of a rather limited reduction in the cost of pest control, farmers should not abandon using Bt-Cotton, because the evolution of Chinese farming does not push cotton growers to be so much vigilant in optimizing their production costs, unless seed prices keeps on tremendously increasing. The continuation of a profitable use of GMC should require some move to better regulate the seed sector.

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