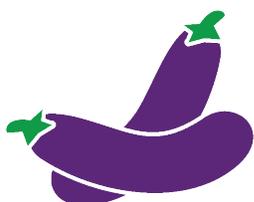


BIOTECH CROP
ANNUAL UPDATES

Eggplant



The research and development on **Bt EGGPLANT** in the Philippines is led by the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The **FRUIT AND SHOOT BORER (FSB) RESISTANT EGGPLANT** or **Bt EGGPLANT** is an insect-resistant eggplant developed through genetic engineering. This eggplant contains a natural protein from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that makes it resistant to EFSB.

In the Philippines, Bt eggplant is expected to **BOOST YIELDS BY 192%** and **REDUCE PESTICIDE USE BY 48%**.



After rigorous biosafety assessment pursuant to the DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG Joint Department Circular (JDC) No. 1, Series of 2016, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) approved **Bt EGGPLANT FOR DIRECT USE AS FOOD, FEED, OR FOR PROCESSING (FFP)** on July 21, 2021 and is found to be as safe as a conventional eggplant.



On October 18, 2022, the DA-BPI granted the **BIOSAFETY PERMIT FOR THE COMMERCIAL PROPAGATION OF Bt EGGPLANT** to UPLB pursuant to the DOST-DA-DENR-DOH-DILG JDC No. 1, Series of 2021. The Philippines became the second country in the world after Bangladesh to allow the commercial propagation of Bt eggplant.

Following the biosafety approval for commercial planting of Bt eggplant, priority activities include seed production, varietal registration, and farm demonstrations. Concurrent to the pilot planting activities, an extensive growers' education program will also be launched as part of the product stewardship activities within the following year.



For more information, visit:

www.isaaa.org

Sources:

ISAAA. 2019. Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops in 2019. *ISAAA Brief* No. 55.

Questions and Answers about the Fruit and Shoot Borer Resistant Eggplant (<https://bit.ly/3BN9UgW>)