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Policy and Institutional Factors and the Distribution of Economic Benefits and Risk from the Adoption of Insect Resistant (Bt) Cotton in West Africa

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***Abstract:***

Some countries in West Africa are considering the potential adoption of insect resistant cotton. Burkina Faso has already approved commercial cultivation of this technology. This paper presents the results of a an socio economic impact assessment of the potential adoption of insect resistant cotton in West Africa using an augmented economic surplus model to consider risk and parameter uncertainty. Model considers changes in parameters such as technology fees, regulatory lags, and adoption patterns. Results show these are important in shaping the average response but also its distribution. Countries in West Africa definitively loose from not adopting Bt cotton. Adoption with reduced or no technology fees gathered the most gains to producers and for society as a whole. The paper develops a discussion of the potential policy and institutional factors affecting adoption outcomes.

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