

The use of Hybrid Indicators in the Assessment of the Impacts of Technology on Forest and Agriculture Sustainability

Dalia Abbas, Ph.D.

National Science Foundation, Fellow

abbasdalia@gmail.com

Disclaimer:

The slides in this presentation are the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of the National Science Foundation.

What are Hybrid Indicators?

Connecting two seemingly unrelated indicators → technology to sustainability

We have been looking at existing technology and sustainability indicators → to measure inputs - outputs impacts.

A proposed (hybrid) solution may be land based indicator to help us better understand this connection.

Why is this important?

The Large-scale Impacts of Biotechnology



The United States plants approx. 192 million acres of corn, soybeans and cotton.

This area is equivalent to:

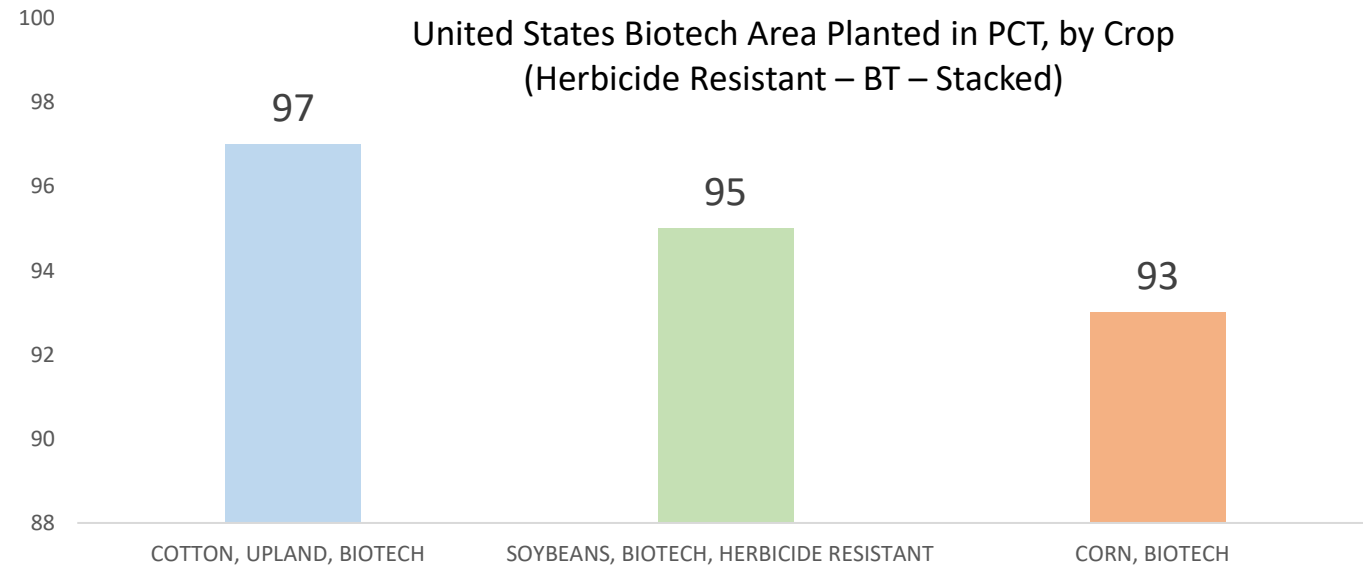
- US: Texas and SC
- World: France and Switzerland

[USDA 2021](#)

U.S. farmers have planted an estimated **11.2 million acres** of cotton in 2021, production is up 27% from 2020, but acres are only up by 3%.

U.S. farmers have planted an estimated **87.2 million acres** of soybeans in 2021, production is expected to be up 6% from 2020 and acres are up 5% from 2020.

U.S. farmers have planted an estimated **93.3 million acres** of corn in 2021, production is up 1.7 bushels per acre and acres are up 3% from 2020.



Data extracted from NASS 2021

Relevant Indicators and datasets

Biotechnology indicators (OECD)

Agricultural indicators (OECD-FAO-World Bank)

Environmental indicators

Agri-Environmental indicators

Environmental technology diffusion indicators

Patent indicators

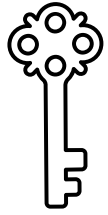
Approved GMOs per development trait (indicators)

Agriculture policy Indicators

Sustainable Development Goals indicators

What did we do to address this goal?

- Literature review
- Met with national and global leaders
- Looked at existing indicators
- Mined and analyzed datasets
- Identified challenges and opportunities
- Proposed a hybrid indicator that integrates existing technology and sustainability under a land-based indicator.



Key Findings

- Existing indicators are broader than Sustainability impacts.
- Existing technologies categorizations are broader than biotechnology.
- More data insights can be integrated in existing indicators, to help us better understand the impacts of biotechnology innovations on agriculture and forest sustainability.



Those impacts may not necessarily be positive or negative

Thank you for your
attention!

Dalia Abbas, Ph.D.
abbasdalia@gmail.com