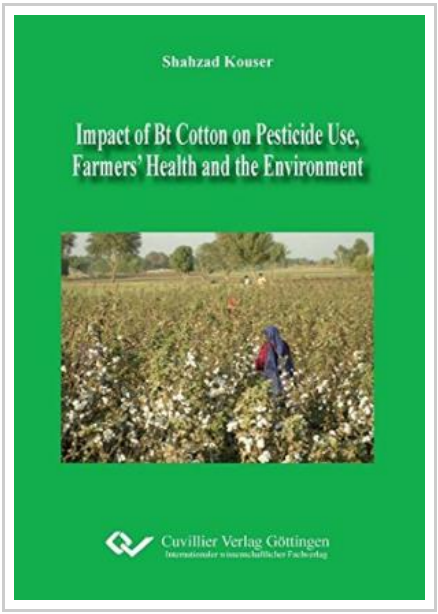

Impact of Bt Cotton on Pesticide Use, Farmers' Health and the Environment

By Shahzad Kouser

Cuvillier Verlag Nov 2012, 2012. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 211x147x14 mm. Neuware - Agricultural biotechnology could contribute to alleviating poverty, improving food security and health and reducing pressures on the environment. Bt cotton is one example of a biotech crop product, which is genetically modified (GM) through insertion of Cry genes from the soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). These Bt genes make the plant resistant to certain insect pests, especially the cotton bollworm and related species, which are very damaging in many cotton-growing regions of the world and are responsible for intensive chemical pesticide applications. Bt cotton was first officially commercialized in 1996 in the USA. Since then, this technology has been successfully planted in 13 developed and developing countries, covering an area of 62 million acres in 2011. The inbuilt insect resistance in Bt cotton helps to reduce hazardous pesticides, which are often associated with significant health and environmental risks in developing countries, where pesticides are usually sprayed manually with little or no protective clothing. The existing literature provides empirical evidence that Bt cotton has contributed to lower pesticide use, reduced crop damage and higher farm incomes. Despite the growing body of evidence on agronomic and economic impacts, wider...

Reviews

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