

# Results of IFPRI-CONALGODON cotton projects in Colombia

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Patricia Zambrano

International Food Policy Research Institute

# Colombia Bt cotton study 2007-8

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- **Bt cotton, Colombia**

Patricia Zambrano

Luz Amparo Fonseca

Iván Cardona

Eduardo Magalhaes

Jose Falck Zepeda

**Farm survey**

**364 farmers**

**2007-8 season**

**18 municipalities in**

**Tolima, Córdoba and Sucre**



# Bt cotton (Nuopal) in Colombia

## Main Findings

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- Higher yields but significant differences among regions
- High number of insecticide applications
- Significant reduction in seed planted per hectare (25-20 kg/ha of seed to 10-12 kg/ha)
- Lack of information about Bt seed and crop management
- Compliance with refugia is less than optimal
- Cost of seed a limiting factor to reach poor farmers
- Access to credit and machinery crucial factors in tech. adoption



# Gender and GM Cotton in Colombia

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**Pilot qualitative study to explore gender roles in the adoption and impact of GM cotton**

Team members:

Patricia Zambrano - IFPRI

Jorge Higinio Maldonado - Universidad de Los Andes

Sandra Mendoza - Universidad de Los Andes

Luz Amparo Fonseca - CONALGODON

Lorena Ruiz – CONALGODON

Objectives

Develop a qualitative methodology

Identify research questions

Generate testable hypothesis

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- **Large body of literature on variety trait preferences by gender and the implications for seed demand**
  - **Research shows that women's preferences are different but are dependant on their access to resources and control over their income**
  - **Very little research regarding gender preferences and GM traits and varieties and it's implications on adoption and impact**

# Qualitative methods used

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- **Farmers (35)**
  - **Focus groups**
    - **Map of cotton activities by gender**
    - **Agronomic preferences matrix**
    - **Priorities matrix**
  - **Interviews, farm map, short survey**
- **Technical Assistants (15)**
  - **Focus group and interviews with**
- **Regional association directors (6)**
  - **interviews**

# Colombia GM Cotton and Gender

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- **Issues identified**

- **Women are involved in cotton production and their degree of involvement depend on the control they have over the plot**
- **GM varieties have introduced changes in farming practices (weeds, spraying)**
- **GM cotton is seen as advantageous by women as it saves money in some critical activities that would otherwise require them to hire and supervise men, particularly for the application of insecticides and other chemicals**

# Colombia GM Cotton and Gender

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- Women have better **credit** standing than men (and many times their husbands) and tend to manage it in a more conservative way
- Women and men save time with HT technologies, but women will tend to use their **freed time** in other productive activities, while men will see it as a window for leisure
- Women have a very important role in cotton **administration** and cash flow management



# Qualitative study on Gender and GM Cotton in Colombia

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- **Women farmers see information as key to handling GM varieties**
  - have less access to information compared to men, particularly among their peers as their social networks and their 'down time are quite limited
  - but more willing to put additional effort to follow directions about how to adjust their farming practices

# Colombia GM Cotton and Gender

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- **Seed**
  - **Both men and women perceive**
    - **GM technology as beneficial but too expensive**
    - **GM seed as more demanding weather wise, and that conventional varieties are more resilient to weather variability**
    - **Limited availability of Bt variety that farmers liked (Nuopal)**
    - **That local varieties are not as easily available as in the past**