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Economic and environmental threats of alien plant, animal, and microbe invasions

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Abstract

Over 120,000 non-native species of plants, animals and microbes have invaded the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, South Africa, India, and Brazil, and many have caused major economic losses in agriculture and forestry as well as negatively impacting ecological integrity. Some introduced species, like corn (*Zea mays* L.), wheat (*Triticum* spp.), rice (*Oryza sativa* L.), plantation forests, domestic chicken (*Gallus* spp.), cattle (*Bos taurus*), and others, are beneficial and provide more than 98% of the world's food supply. Precise economic costs associated with some of the most ecologically damaging alien species are not available. Cats (*Felis catus*) and pigs (*Sus scrofa*), for example, are responsible for the extinction of various animal species, however, it is impossible to assign monetary values to species forced to extinction. The estimate is that non-native species invasions in the six nations are causing more than US\$ 314 billion per year in damages.



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Keywords

Plants; Animals; Alien; Economic; Ecology; Environment; Agriculture; Non-indigenous

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â€“ tfoy in schasheshka sit".

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