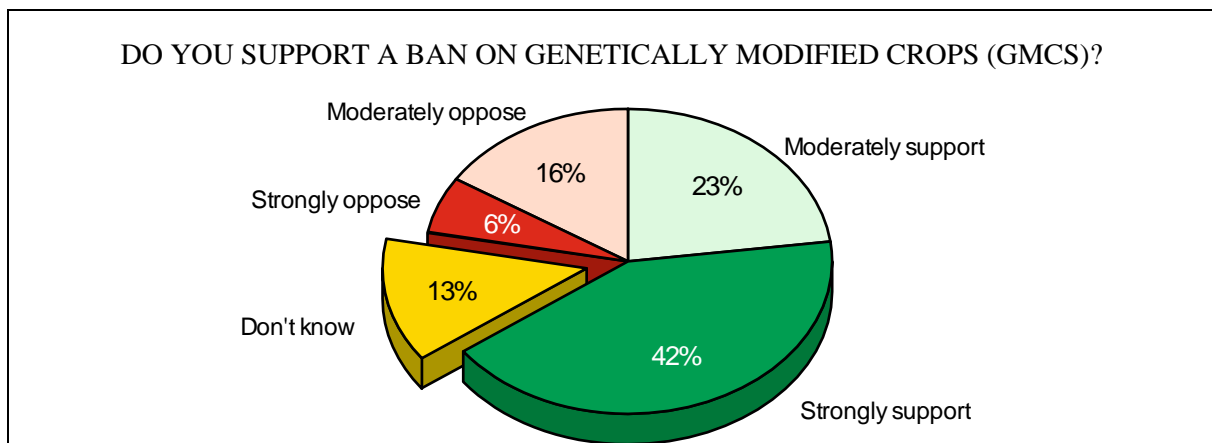


## OPINIONS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS (GMCs)

The prevailing view in Poland (65%) is the support for a ban on genetically modified crops (GMCs). The opponents of such a prohibition constitute slightly more than a fifth of respondents (22%).

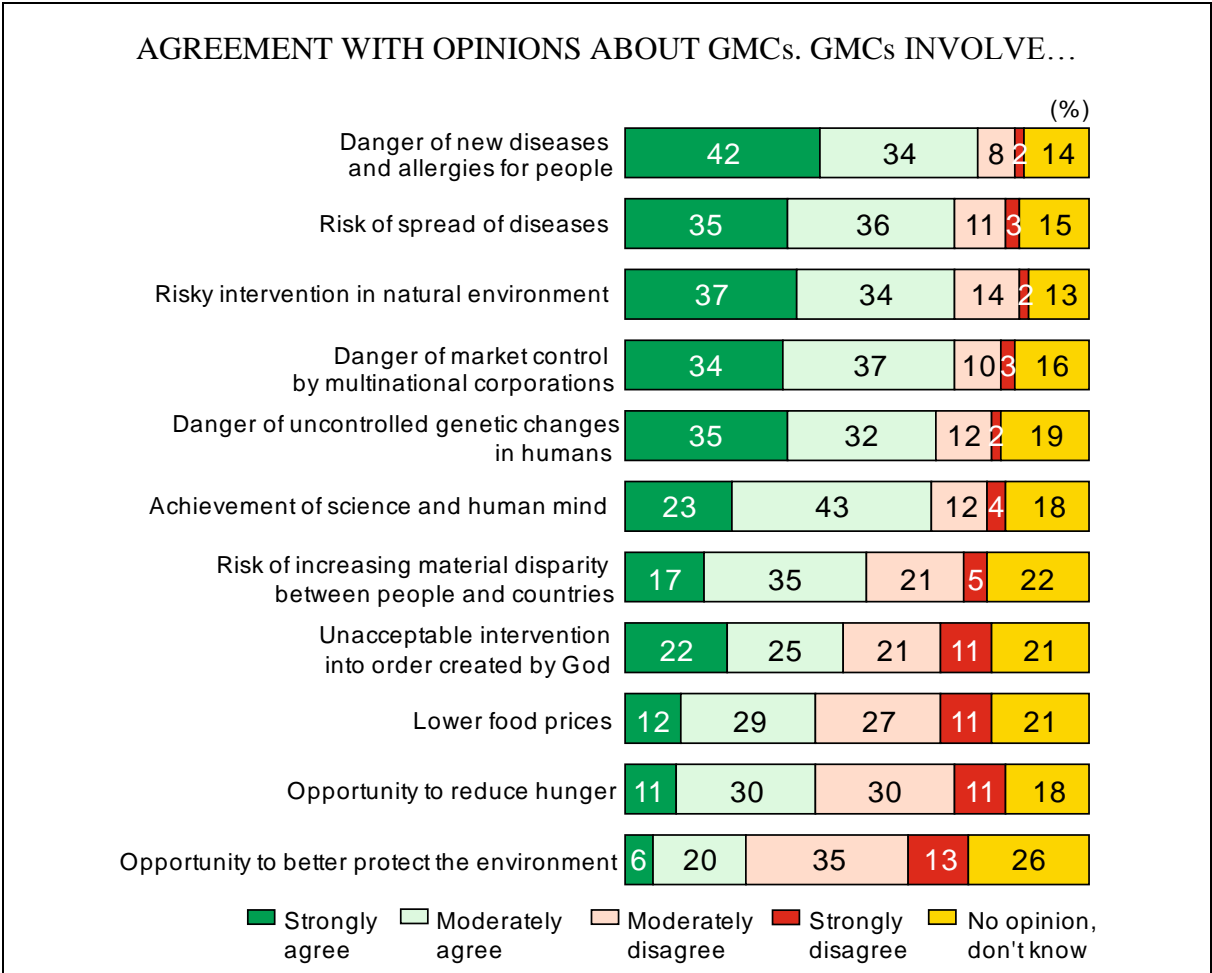


Opinion about GMCs indicate that the majority of Poles consider them to be a significant achievement of science and human mind (66%). However, most people are also afraid that their cultivation is associated with the danger of new diseases and allergies (76%). Many think it may cause the spread of various diseases (71%) and genetic modifications in humans (67%). A vast majority think that it is a dangerous intervention in the natural environment (71%). Almost half (47%) consider it to be an unacceptable intervention into the order created by God.

Patent rights to seeds of GMCs belong to companies which invested into research leading to their development. Opponents of GMCs consider this to be a potential threat for farmers and consumers. A large majority of respondents (71%) believe there is a risk of control of the market by multinational companies involved in cultivating GMCs. Over half (52%) share the opinion that GMCs may deepen material disparities between people and countries.

Data of GMC seed producers indicate that they give higher yield than plants grown in natural conditions. The public opinion, however, is divided on whether genetically modified crops may alleviate hunger: the proportions of people sharing this view and rejecting it are equal (41% each). The number of people hoping for a decrease in food prices thanks to GMCs (41%) is slightly higher than the percentage of respondents who do not consider it to be the case (38%).

There are arguments that GMCs require lower amount of artificial fertilisers and less chemical protection, and shallower ploughing of the fields, which reduces CO2 emission. However, Poles tend to reject the argument that GMCs allow for better environment protection (48%), rather than agreeing with it (26%).



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions about food safety and GMCs", January 2013. Fieldwork for national sample: December 2012, N=1135. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland