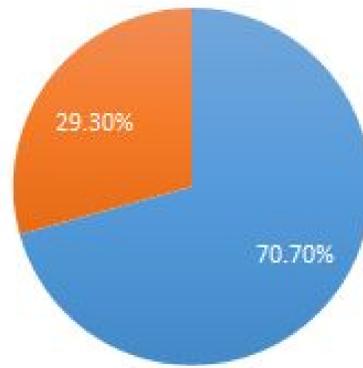
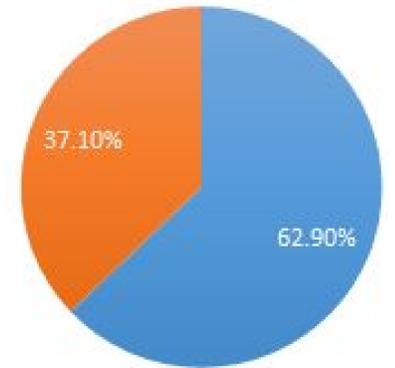


# Should the UK legalise GMOs after Brexit?

**71%** of the public from our survey support the use of GM food.



**63%** of the public from our survey believe the UK will have sufficient food to support itself post-Brexit.



## Scientific supported advantages of GMO agriculture

- Higher yield of crop per given area
- Less space required
- Higher revenue from yield
- Pharming – Added value crop
- Pathogen and Pest resistance
- Weather resistance

## Scientific concerns of GMO agriculture (plus concerns addressed and countered by research)

- Extreme monoculture- restriction of crop gene pool
- Gene insertions causing unpredictable outcomes
- **(New GMOs are rigorously tested before release)**
- Horizontal gene transfer to other organisms
- **(Very unlikely in plants)**
- Selection pressures for super weeds and pathogens

## UK's legal and economical status before Brexit

### LEGAL

- Pre-Brexit: EU Directives and Regulations apply to the UK
- UK therefore has to implement them in domestic legislation
- Limitation to the amount of GMO cultivation, import and export.
- Only 58 GMOs authorised in the EU at the moment

### ECONOMIC

- **Estimated revenue lost due to restrictions on GM: £4 billion**
  - Transport of imported products
  - Pesticides
  - Most of the foods for animals are imported
  - Maintaining conditions for growth
- **Possible limitations to the introduction:**
  - Availability of land
  - Costs related to the introduction of GMO
  - Exchange costs

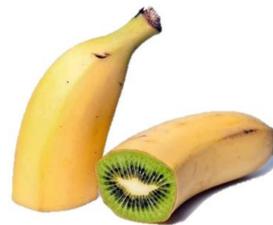
## Impacts after Legalisation

### Legal impacts:

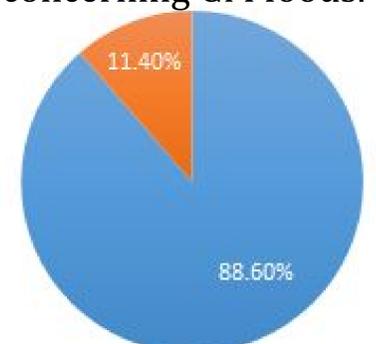
- Brexit means the EU Directives and Regulations no longer apply
- The UK could thus repeal any current restrictive GMO legislation
- UK could allow for less strict GMO legislation

### Economical impacts:

- Greater food security
- Less food imports
- Farming benefits
- More investment into R&D
- Greater trade relations



**88.6%** of people are unaware of the current UK laws concerning GM foods.



## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1. **76%** aged 18-24.
2. **50%** that the UK produces sufficient food to support its population.
3. **63%** thought that after Brexit, the UK would be able to sustain itself with regards to food (through growing crops, and trading imports).
4. Public definition of GMOs: modified genes of organisms to increase yield, improve taste, allow growth in harsh conditions, improve nutritional value. Also many answers showing uncertainty.
5. **71%** support the use of GMOs in the food industry.
6. **23%** wouldn't eat GMOs, giving reasons of unknown long term health impacts, fears of genetic modifications spreading into wild populations, artificial. Those that said they would eat GM food gave reasons including a need to feed more people, no known health effects, cheaper foods, we've been 'doing it for years'. 77% aware that much of the processed food we eat contains GM food additives (e.g. soy lethicin).
7. **89%** were unaware of the current laws concerning GM foods in the UK. Those that said they knew about the laws understood that the UK prohibits growing of GM but allows selling of GM products.
8. People believed the **benefits of GMOs** to be: higher yields to feed increasing population, increased shelf life, pest and disease resistance, cheaper, tolerate harsh climates, foods all year round, aesthetically better foods, increased nutritional value of food, cheaper.
9. People's **concerns about GMOs**: unknown health impacts, more allergies, decreased biodiversity, could extend to human genetic modifications, owners of GM technologies monopolise industry, superweeds.
10. Knowledge about GMOs gained from the media and internet (32%); education systems (50%); other people (9%); all of the previous (9%).