

Attitude of the Czech Farmers Towards GMO in 1998 and 1999

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The basic aim of this survey was to find out the level of knowledge and to state the relationship of the Czech farmers (most of them agronomists) towards GMO. This survey was done on the occasion of Spring Rapeseed Seminars, organised regularly each year by the Union of Rapeseed Growers and Processors, Prague.

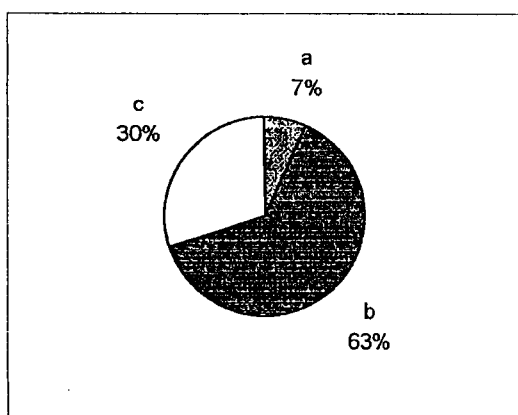
The questionnaire was set up from five questions with the possibility to choose one of them, or to complete them with their own statement, respectively.

144 participants from a total 820 took part in this investigation in 1998, and 163 respondents from a total 1059 farmers in 1999. Each year 9 seminars took place in different parts of the Czech Republic.

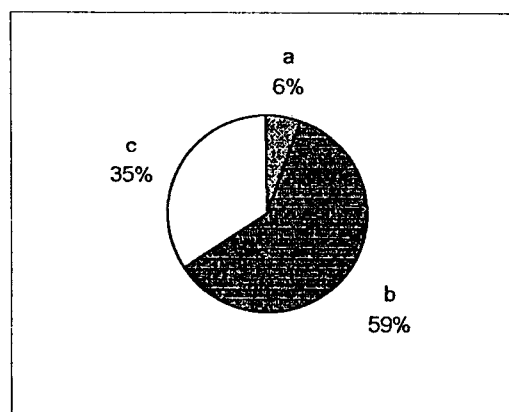
Results

1. About genetically modified organisms (GMO)

- a) I have heard nothing till today
- b) I have read or heard something
- c) I am informed sufficiently in my opinion



Structure of answers: a) 1998



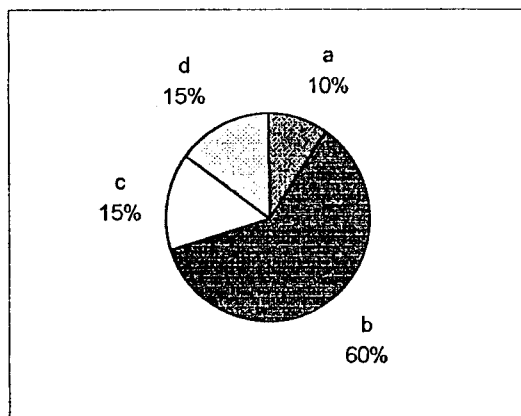
b) 1999

Status evaluation and change of opinion during the surveyed period:

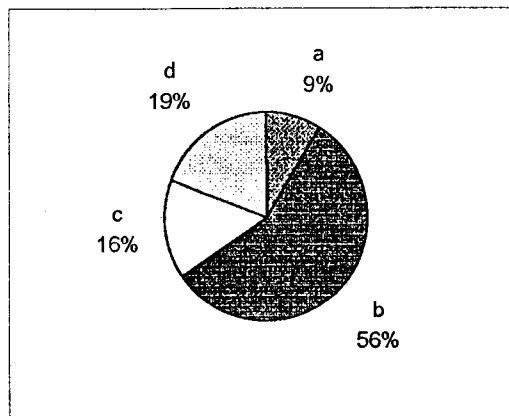
- very low amount of respondents without any information about GMO
- very high amount of somehow informed respondents, from it a surprisingly high share of those who are supposed to be informed sufficiently
 - entirely noninformed respondents decreased from 7 to 6%
 - „little“ informed decreased from 63 to 59%
 - sufficiently informed increased from 30 to 35%

2. I suppose that methods of genes modification are

- a) a great risk for the future of mankind
- b) a great contribution for the future of mankind
- c) a necessary evil, without it mankind cannot survive
- d) without own opinion yet



Structure of answers: a) 1998



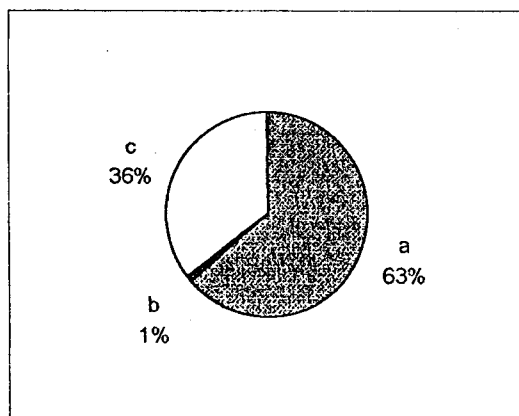
b) 1999

Status evaluation and change of opinion during the surveyed period:

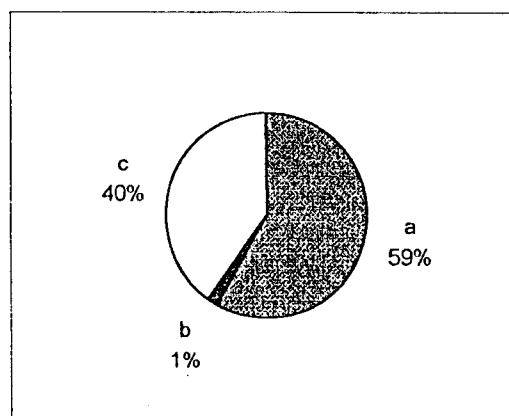
- most of the respondents assume genes modification as profitable
 - apprehension of possible risks decreased from 10 to 9%
 - decrease in opinion about big profit of GMO for the future of mankind from 60 to 56%
 - increase of opinion that GMO is a necessary evil, without it mankind cannot survive from 15 to 16%
 - respondents without own opinion increased from 15 to 19%

3. As a farmer, I would be ready to grow the registered GMO in my fields

- a) without limitations
- b) in no case
- c) only in case, if (fill in) ...



Structure of answers: a) 1998



b) 1999

Status evaluation and change of opinion during the surveyed period:

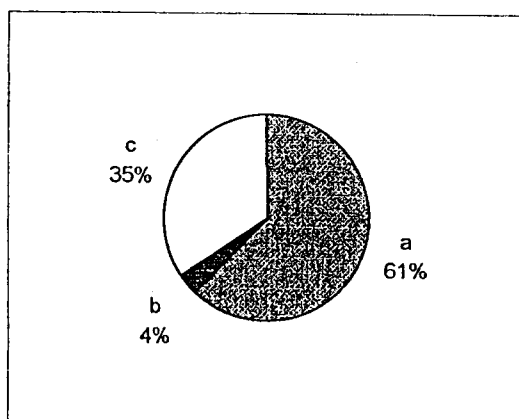
- a considerable amount of respondents were ready to grow transgenic crops without limitations or in only specified cases
- a very low amount of farmers would grow GMO in no case
 - decrease in farmers ready to grow transgenic crops without limitations from 63 to 59%
 - share of univocally negative approaches has not been changed (1% in both years)
 - increase in the number of respondents ready to grow GMO only in special conditions from 36 to 40%

Most frequently supplements to point c (in both years):

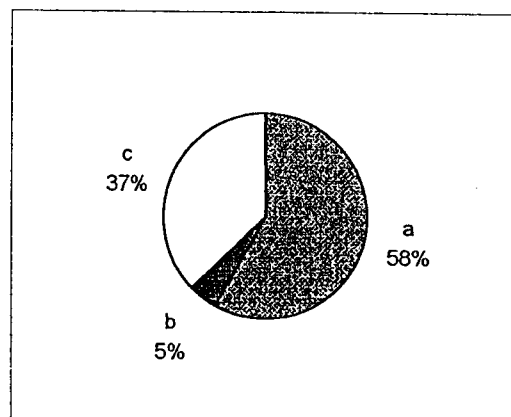
- it will be not dangerous for food chains
- it will be used for the RME production
- science will confirm the unexceptionable character of it for human nutrition
- the influence on the environment will be known
- growing risks will be known
- growing economy will be better
- sale, control and profitability will be ensured
- will be not more expensive
- as a trial
- it will be really helpful for mankind

4. As a farmer, I would be ready to feed my animals with the fodder containing GMO

- a) without limitations
- b) in no case
- c) only in case, if (*fill in*) ...



Structure of answers: a) 1998



b) 1999

Status evaluation and change of opinion during the surveyed period:

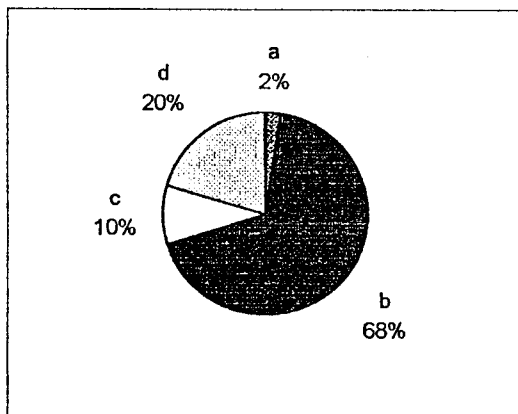
- a very big amount of farmers were ready to feed their animals with the fodder containing GMO without limits or only in specified cases
- a very low amount of respondents want to use such fodder in no case. This share is, however, remarkably higher (4x, 5x respectively) than the amount of farmers refusing to grow GMO crops
 - decrease in number of respondents ready to accept the fodder containing GMO from 61 to 58%
 - increase of refusal approaches from 4 to 5%
 - increase of conditioned approaches from 35 to 37%

Most frequently supplements to point c (in both years):

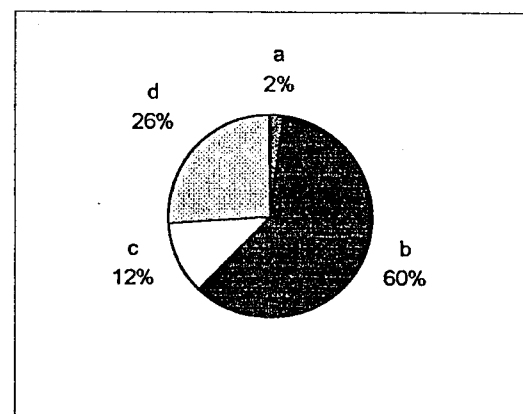
- it will not negatively influence the genetics and immunology of the animals
- the safety will be tested perfectly
- scientific investigation will confirm the unexceptionable character of it for both animal and human nutrition
- it will be absolutely without health risks
- it will be without secondary influences
- all the influences to animal and human body will be known
- long time tests of non harmfulness will be negative
- safety in the food chains will be ensured
- it will be not dangerous for the animals and not more expensive
- as a trial
- mankind will stop its over eating
- economical necessity

5. As a consumer, I would eat GMO-containing food

- a) in no case
- b) without fear and unprejudiced
- c) with fear for my health
- d) without own opinion yet



Structure of answers: a) 1998



b) 1999

Status evaluation and change of opinion during the surveyed period:

- a very little amount of respondents strongly refused the food containing GMO
- most of inquired people would eat such food without fear and unprejudiced
- ca every 10th respondent would have fear of this food
- a relatively big share of respondents is without their own opinion
 - amount of respondents strongly refusing the food containing GMO has not been changed (2%)
 - share of consumers without fear decreases by 8%
 - share of consumers ready to eat such food with fear increased from 10 to 12%
 - number of consumers without their own opinion increased from 20 to 26%