



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA**  
**THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

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European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

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**INFORMATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF AUTHORIZED  
GMO'S IN LITHUANIA**

Dear Ms. Chantal Bruetschy,

According to the Council conclusions on GMOs, adopted on 4 December 2008 by the Environment Council, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania has performed the study "An Assessment Of Socio-economic Implications of Authorized GMOs in Lithuania".

Please, find enclosed the summary report of the study "An Assessment Of Socio-economic Implications of Authorized GMOs in Lithuania". The full text in Lithuanian is available through the GMOs database <http://gmo.am.lt>.

Yours sincerely,

Aleksandras Spruogis  
Vice-minister of Environment

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**Summary report  
of the study “An Assessment Of Socio-economic Implications of Authorized GMOs in  
Lithuania”**

In the study “An Assessment of Socio-economic Implications of Authorized GMOs in Lithuania” the economical assessment is related with the genetically modified products importance for the national market, i.e. product amounts and costs. In the course of investigation two kinds of GM products, i.e. food and feed as a part of feed-food chain – were analyzed. The study analyses the impact of GM products on the market and social environment in Lithuania, GM products and its regulation, from the viewpoint of consumers and representatives of enterprises. The socio-economic impact of GMOs on agronomic sustainability has not been analyzed.

GM feed is quite widely used in Lithuania. According to the State Food and Veterinary Service 316 741 t of genetically modified feed were produced in 2007, i.e. 38.5 % of all feed produced in Lithuania. 352 625 t of GM feed were produced in 2008, i.e. 43.9 % of all feed in Lithuania.

Taking into account the amounts of feed that is produced in Lithuania and imported feed, the traditional feed predominates on the national market. The GM feed constitutes one-third of the Lithuanian feed market (see figure 1).

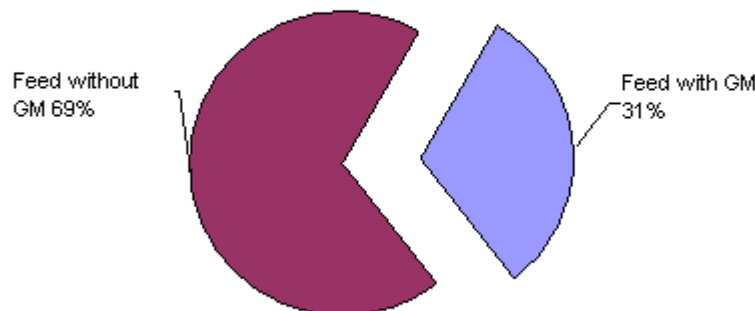


Figure 1. GM feed and traditional feed proportion in Lithuania in 2008.

In 2008 GM feed production increased by 10.1 %, and the part of GM feed on the market increased by 5.4 %.

The official statistics about GM food production and consumption are not collected and provided. Therefore, this information could be collected from enterprises. However, the common food consumption data, that are necessary for the market study, are from the Household budget analysis performed by the Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. In accordance with this analysis, Lithuanian population on average consumes 1.77 mln. litres of oil and spend 10.9 mln. litas per month.

The difference between GM and traditional products could be determined while observing the market and surveying enterprises that supply GM products. In 2008 GM oil accounted for 35 % of all marketable oil on the national market.

GM products costs are approximately one-third lower than traditional product costs on the market. GM oil is on average 37.7 % cheaper, margarine and butter products – are 30.8 % cheaper. The costs differences are close to the information that was collected during questioning of enterprises.

While assessing the impact of GM products on socio-economic development the several scenarios are contemplated in European Union. While analyzing the impact of GM food and feed on the market and social environment three scenarios have been chosen. The GM product consumption variations have been analyzed in three product groups (pork, beef and poultry).

Under the first scenario, Lithuania rejects GM food and feed and, the result is as following: pork and poultry net cost and import of these products increases, and competitiveness decreases. Due to this, inhabitants with small income have lower consumption possibilities of pork, poultry and especially beef. However, the social tension inspired by the opponents of GM products decreases.

Under the second scenario, the amount of GM products increases to 60 %, pork, poultry and beef net cost decreases negligible, and the consumption possibilities of these products increase. The social tension inspired by the opponents of GM products also increases.

Under the third scenario, GM products amounts in the market would increase to 100 %, pork and poultry net cost decreases. A better possibility to compete on the international markets emerges. Apparently, the consumption of pork and poultry increases. Consumption of beef negligible increases. The choice possibility for consumers between GM and traditional food decreases.

The conclusions based on the performed study are as follows:

1. The GM products assessment is different and controversial in Lithuania. The main reason for such different assessment is an unclear impact of GM products on health and environment. Official statistics on GMOs production and consumption are not collected in Lithuania.
2. Representatives of enterprises lack the unanimous opinion concerning GM products. Some of them consider that Lithuania should keep to the precautionary principle concerning GMOs impact on human and animal health. The others consider that such position is too cautious. All representatives of enterprises assume that Lithuania should change the current position.
3. GM feed is widely used and accounts for the one-third of the feed market in Lithuania. The feed cost for final product cost is apparent.
4. In Lithuania GM food products costs are approximately one-third lowers than traditional products costs on the market. For instance, exchange of traditional and GM oil proportion on the market should not be very significant for inhabitants' welfare relating to comparatively little part of such products in consumption and appropriately little part in common consumption costs.