

No Patents on Seeds - Communication Studies Patents



Know more. Act better.

Civey

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Methodology

Survey

In an online survey conducted by Civey, 1,000 people from the general population in various countries were surveyed on the topic of patenting in the field of plant breeding.

- Germany (1,000)
- Italy (1,000)
- France (1,000)
- Netherlands (1,000)
- Poland (1,000)
- The survey took place from March 5 to March 9, 2026.

The results are also available in the [dashboard](#).



Management Summary

- The results of the international survey reveal broad public support for stricter rules regarding patents on plants and living organisms. In all countries surveyed, a clear majority of the population believes that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons. Support is particularly high in Italy and Poland, while it is somewhat lower in the Netherlands but still represents a clear majority.
- A similar picture emerges with regard to plant traits that already occur in nature or arise by chance: a clear majority of respondents believe that such traits should not be patented. Support is high in all countries surveyed, underscoring a strong awareness that natural resources should not be exclusively privatized.
- At the same time, a very large majority of the population supports giving special consideration to the protection of people and the environment when granting patents on genetically modified plants and approving them for market release. In some countries, support for this demand exceeds 90 percent.
- Overall, the results across all countries paint a consistent picture: The public generally supports innovation in plant breeding but expects clear ethical boundaries and high standards of protection. Patents on natural traits are viewed critically, while a particularly responsible approach is demanded when it comes to genetic engineering developments.

Strategic Implications

1. Highlighting broad public support

- In all countries surveyed, a clear majority opposes patents on natural plant traits.
- The position of No Patents on Seeds thus reflects a public concern that enjoys broad support.

2. Addressing the political debate at the European level

- The consistent public opinion across several EU countries provides a strong foundation for the discussion on rules governing plant patents at the EU level.
- The results can be specifically incorporated into political processes concerning seeds, patent law, and new genetic engineering.

3. Using the protection of people and the environment as a central narrative

- There is very high support for the demand that the protection of people and the environment be given special consideration in the case of genetically modified plants.
- This argument resonates strongly with the public and policymakers.

Diversity in Plant Breeding

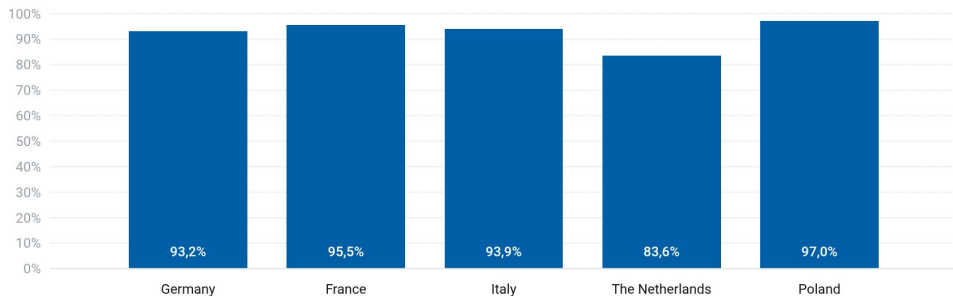
Country Comparison

Diversity in Plant Breeding

[Flexible Comparison](#)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important with regard to agriculture and our food supply"?

Agreement in a country comparison



Statistical details on the polls used here are available in the Civey dashboard.

Civey

The importance of diversity in plant breeding is clearly recognized in all the countries surveyed.

In all countries, a large majority of the population agrees with the statement that diversity in plant breeding is important for agriculture and food security.

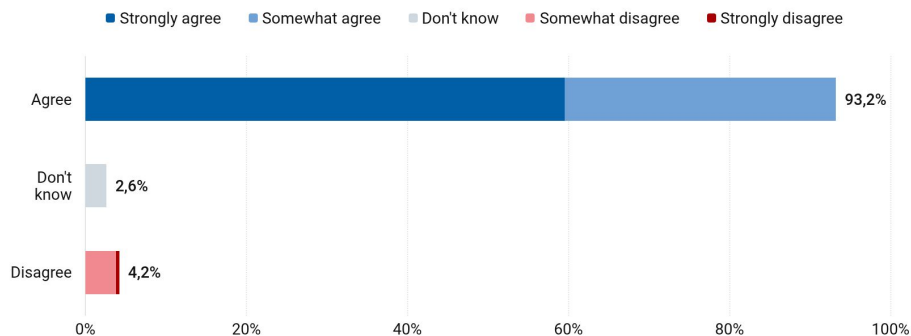
Support is particularly high in Poland and France, where near-unanimous agreement is observed. Support is also very high in Italy and Germany.

People in the Netherlands are somewhat more reserved in their views, although a clear majority there also agrees with the statement.

Diversity in Plant Breeding

Germany | Germany adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important when it comes to agriculture and our diet?"



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Germany, the general public largely views diversity in plant breeding as important for agriculture and food security.

A very large majority agrees with this assessment, with a particularly high number of respondents even agreeing completely. Negative attitudes, on the other hand, are only observed in isolated cases. The proportion of those who do not express a clear opinion is also low.

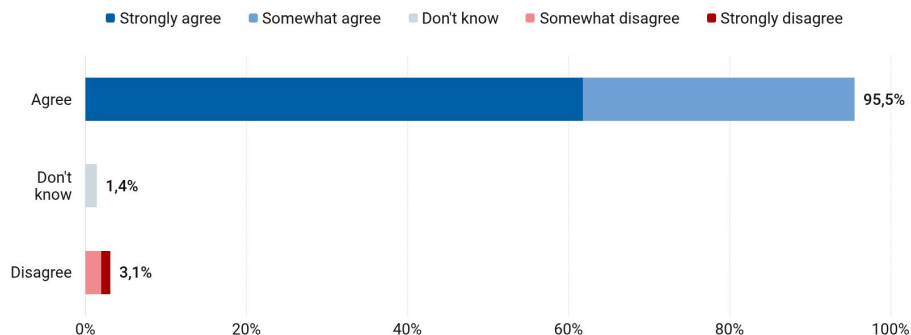
Overall, this indicates a broad social consensus on the importance of diversity in plant breeding.

France

Diversity in Plant Breeding

France | France adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important when it comes to agriculture and our diet"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In France, the general public strongly views diversity in plant breeding as important for agriculture and food security.

An overwhelming majority agrees with this statement, with a particularly large number of respondents expressing their agreement very clearly. Opposing views are rare, and uncertainty plays hardly any role.

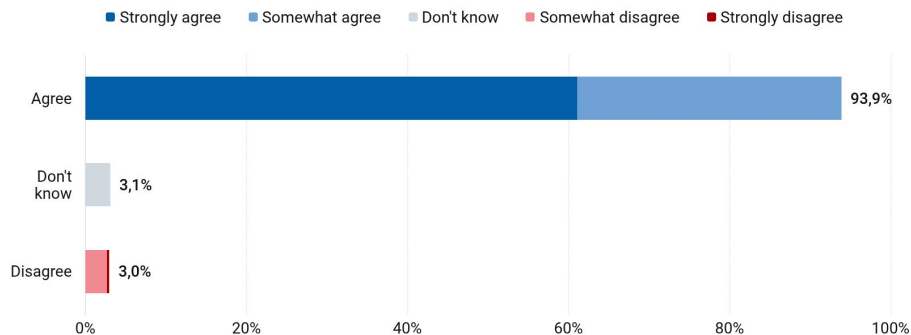
Overall, this indicates very broad public support for the importance of diversity in plant breeding.

Italy

Diversity in Plant Breeding

📍 Italy | Italy adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important when it comes to agriculture and our diet"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Italy, too, the general public clearly views diversity in plant breeding as important for agriculture and food security.

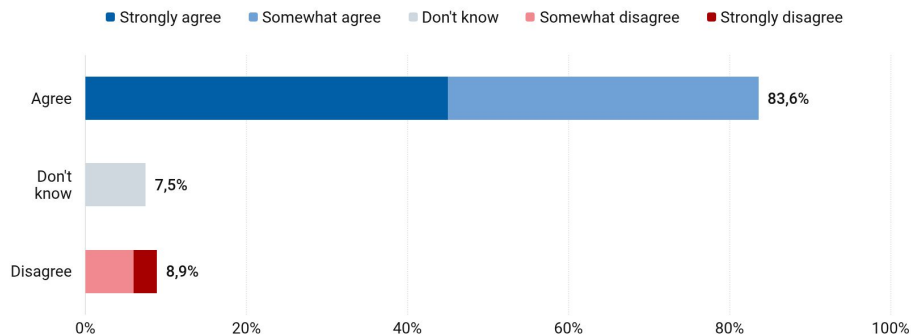
A very large majority agrees with this statement, with a significant portion of respondents doing so with complete conviction. Dissenting voices are few and far between, and uncertainty plays only a minor role.

Overall, this indicates broad societal support in Italy for the importance of diversity in plant breeding.

Diversity in Plant Breeding

📍 Netherlands | Netherlands adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important when it comes to agriculture and our diet?"



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 06.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In the Netherlands, too, a majority of the population views the importance of diversity in plant breeding as crucial for agriculture and food security.

However, support is somewhat more reserved than in the other countries surveyed. While there remains a clear majority in favor, a slightly larger proportion of people here disagree with the statement or do not give a clear opinion.

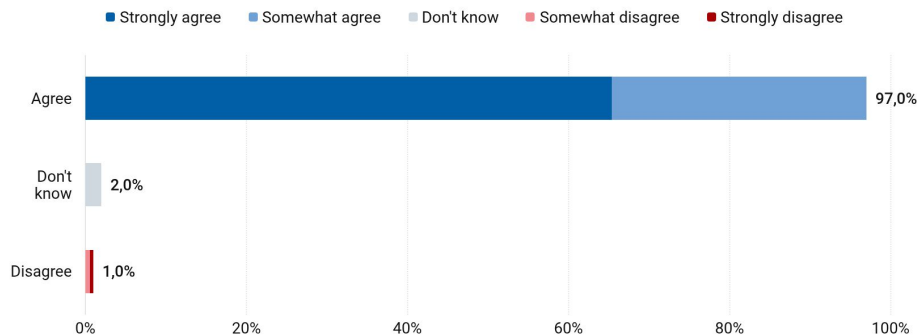
Overall, however, the importance of diversity in plant breeding remains undisputed for the majority of the population in the Netherlands as well.

Poland

Diversity in Plant Breeding

Poland Poland adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "In my opinion, diversity in plant breeding is important when it comes to agriculture and our diet"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Poland, the importance of diversity in plant breeding for agriculture and food security is particularly widely recognized.

Support for this view is especially strong here and is clearly endorsed by a very large portion of the population. Opposition is observed only in isolated cases, and uncertainty plays virtually no role.

Overall, there is thus nearly unanimous support in Poland for the importance of diversity in plant breeding.

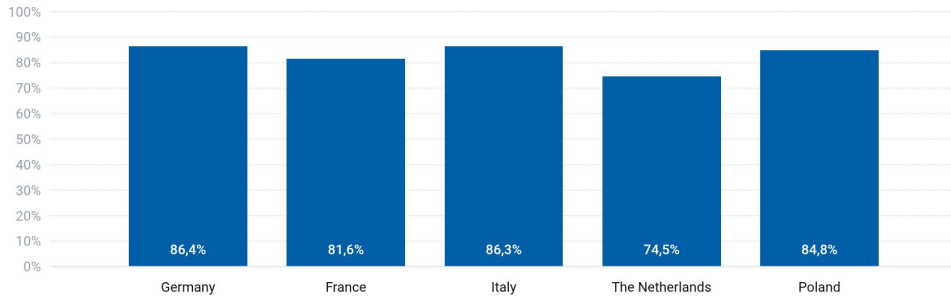
Patenting of living organisms

Patenting of living organisms

[Flexible Comparison](#)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons"?

Agreement in a country comparison



Statistical details on the polls used here are available in the Civey dashboard.

Civey

Widespread Support Against Patents on Living Organisms in All Countries

In all countries surveyed, a clear majority of the population believes that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons.

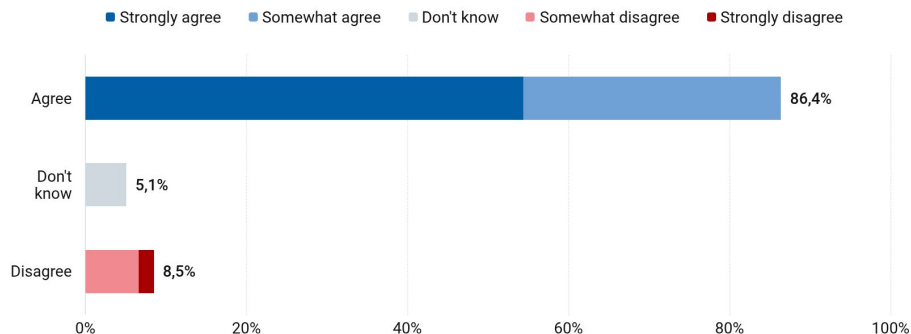
This attitude is particularly pronounced in Germany and Italy. The statement also finds broad support in Poland and France. In the Netherlands, support is somewhat lower compared to the other countries, but still clearly represents a majority.

Overall, this indicates widespread ethical skepticism across all countries regarding the patenting of plants and animals.

Patenting of living organisms

Germany | Germany adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "For ethical reasons, living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Germany, a clear majority of the population believes that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons.

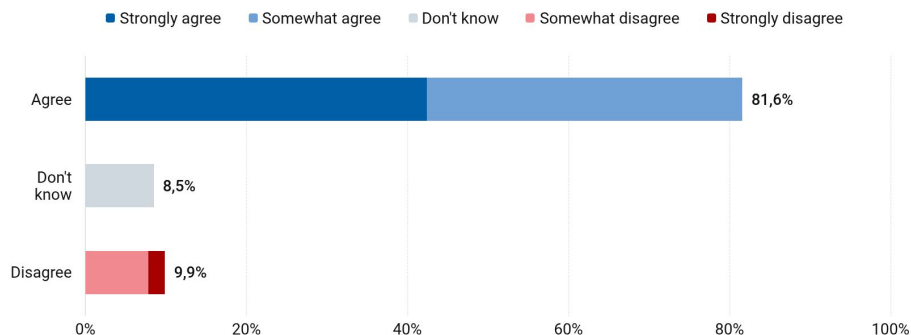
A large proportion of those surveyed even support this position with full conviction. Opposing views remain comparatively rare, while only a small portion of the population does not express a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates that there is also broad ethical skepticism in Germany regarding the patenting of plants and animals.

Patenting of living organisms

France | France adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "For ethical reasons, living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In France, too, a clear majority of the population believes that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons.

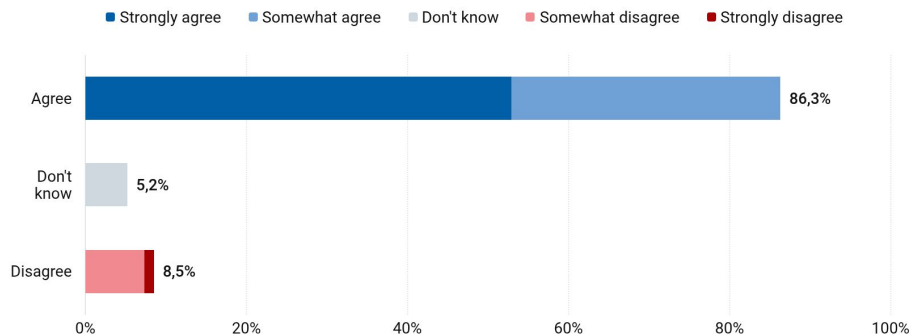
A large proportion of respondents explicitly support this position. At the same time, compared to some other countries, a slightly higher proportion of people are unsure or reject the statement.

Nevertheless, a critical stance toward the patenting of plants and animals clearly prevails in France as well.

Patenting of living organisms

📍 Italy | Italy adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "For ethical reasons, living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Italy, a clear majority of the population believes that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons.

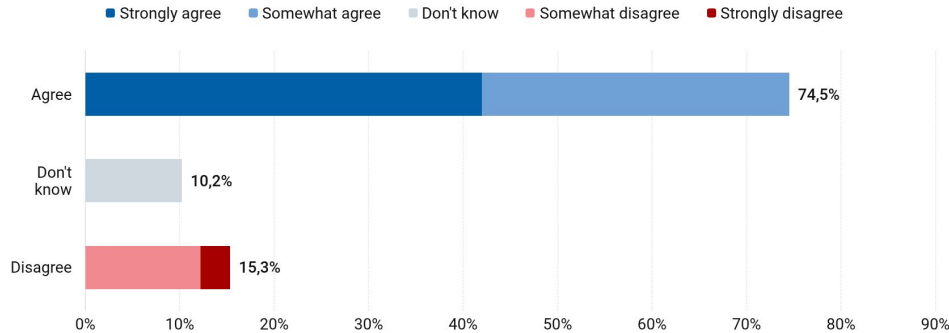
A large proportion of those surveyed clearly support this position. Opposing views remain relatively rare, while only a small portion of the population does not express a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates that there is also a broad critical stance toward the patenting of plants and animals in Italy.

Patenting of living organisms

📍 Netherlands | Netherlands adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "For ethical reasons, living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 06.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In the Netherlands, a majority of the population views the patenting of plants and animals critically.

However, agreement with the statement is noticeably lower than in the other countries surveyed. At the same time, a comparatively larger proportion of people here are unsure or reject the statement.

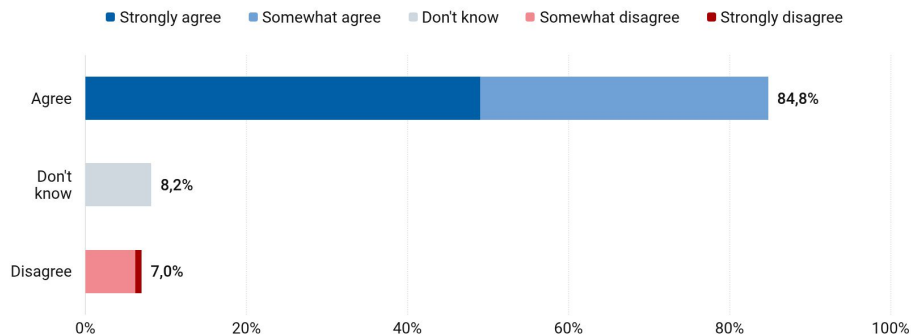
Overall, while a majority remains critical of the patenting of living organisms, this attitude is less pronounced than in the other countries.

Poland

Patenting of living organisms

📍 Poland Poland adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "For ethical reasons, living beings (plants and animals) should not be patented as technical inventions"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Poland, the view that living organisms should not, as a matter of principle, be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons is clearly predominant.

A large majority of the population agrees with this statement, with many respondents clearly expressing their agreement.

Opposing views remain relatively rare, while a smaller portion of the population does not offer a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates that there is also a broad critical stance toward the patenting of plants and animals in Poland.

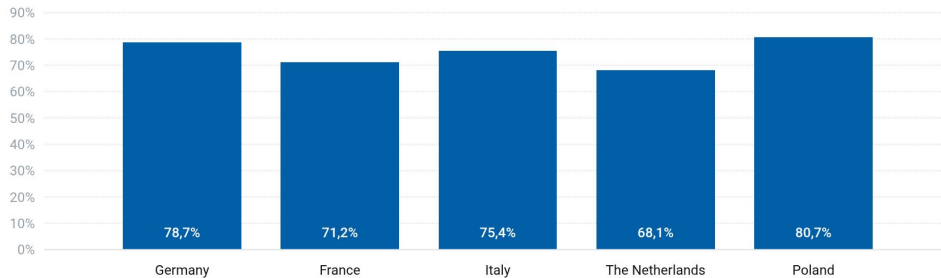
Patenting of Natural Resources

Patenting of Natural Resources

[Flexible Comparison](#)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring properties of plants should not be patented"?

Agreement in a country comparison



Statistical details on the polls used here are available in the Civey dashboard.

Civey

In all the countries surveyed, a clear majority of the population opposes the patenting of naturally occurring or accidentally derived plant traits.

This stance is particularly pronounced in Poland and Germany. In Italy, too, a clear majority supports this position.

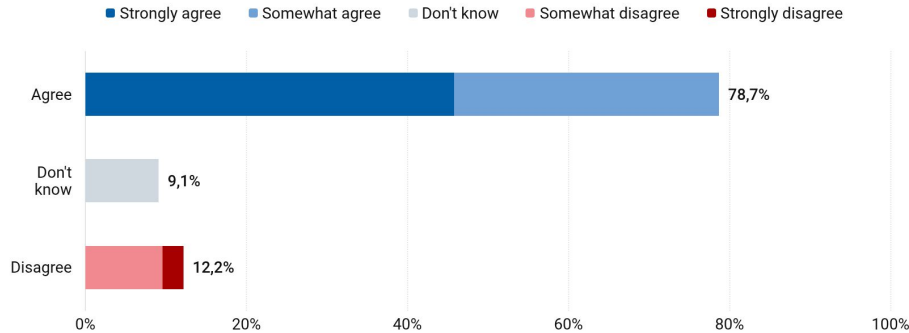
In France and the Netherlands, support is somewhat lower, but still clearly in the majority.

Overall, there is thus widespread skepticism across all countries regarding patents on naturally occurring plant traits.

Patenting of Natural Resources

Germany | Germany adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring plant properties should not be patented"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Germany, a clear majority of the population believes that naturally occurring or randomly arising plant traits should not be patented.

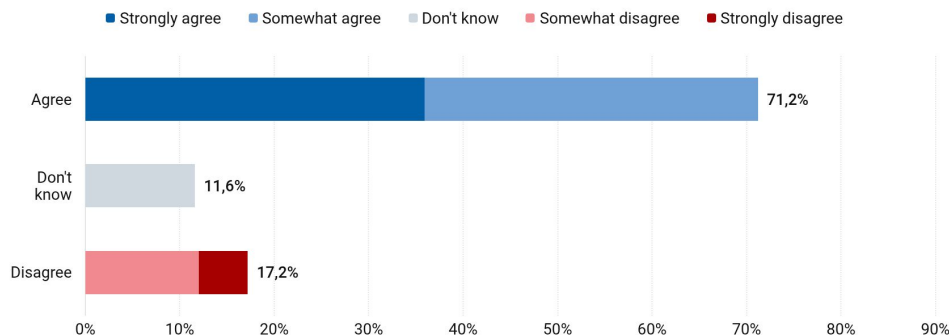
Many respondents explicitly support this position. Opposing views are relatively rare, while a smaller portion of the population does not express a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates that there is also significant skepticism in Germany regarding patents on naturally occurring plant traits.

Patenting of Natural Resources

France | France adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring plant properties should not be patented"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In France, too, a majority of the population opposes the patenting of naturally occurring or randomly arising plant traits.

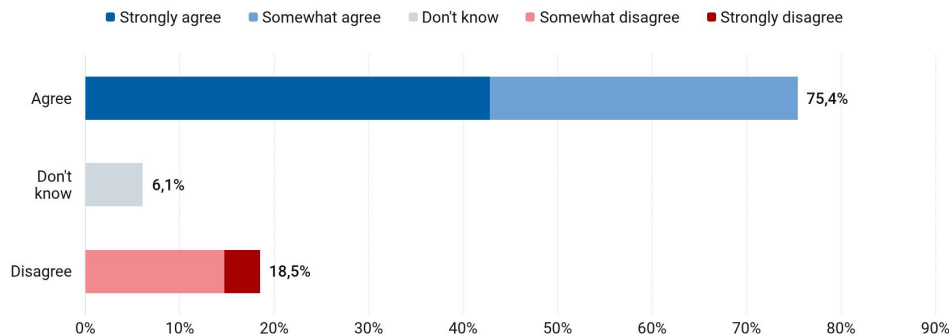
However, the level of support is somewhat lower than in some other countries. At the same time, a comparatively larger proportion of people are unsure or reject the statement.

Overall, however, a critical stance toward patents on naturally occurring plant traits prevails in France as well.

Patenting of Natural Resources

Italy | Italy adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring plant properties should not be patented"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Italy, a clear majority of the population opposes the patenting of naturally occurring or randomly arising plant traits.

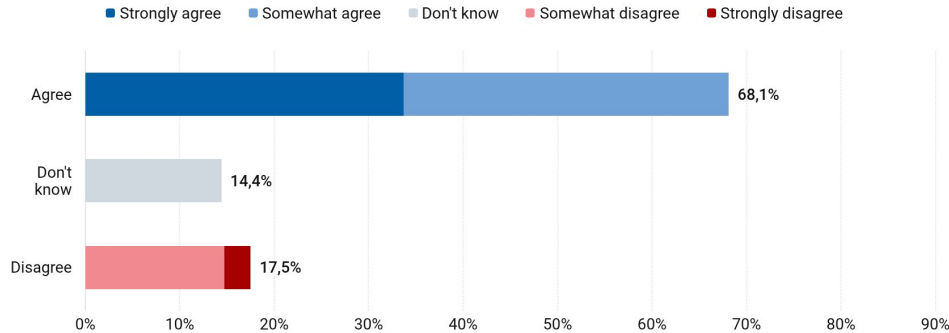
Many respondents clearly support this position. Opposing views remain in the minority, while a small portion of the population does not express a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates a predominantly critical attitude toward patents on naturally occurring plant traits.

Patenting of Natural Resources

📍 Netherlands | Netherlands adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring plant properties should not be patented"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 06.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

A majority of the population in the Netherlands opposes the patenting of naturally occurring or randomly occurring plant traits.

However, the level of support is lower than in the other countries surveyed. At the same time, a comparatively larger proportion of people here are unsure or reject the statement.

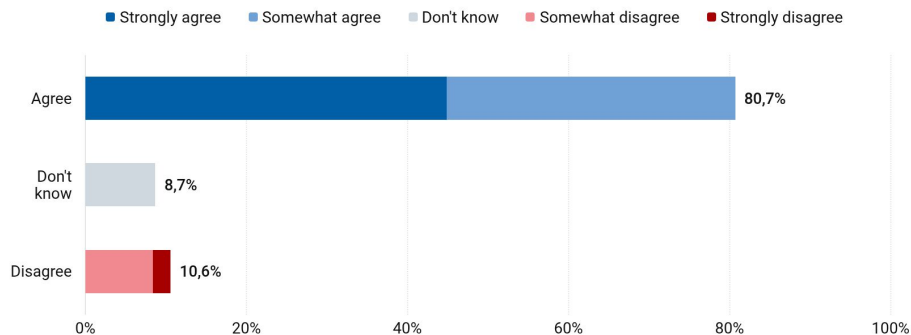
Overall, while a majority remains critical of such patents, this attitude is less pronounced than in the other countries.

Poland

Patenting of Natural Resources

Poland Poland adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Naturally occurring or accidentally occurring plant properties should not be patented"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Poland, a clear majority of the population opposes the patenting of naturally occurring or randomly arising plant traits.

Many respondents clearly support this position. Opponents remain in the minority, while a small portion of the population does not express a clear opinion.

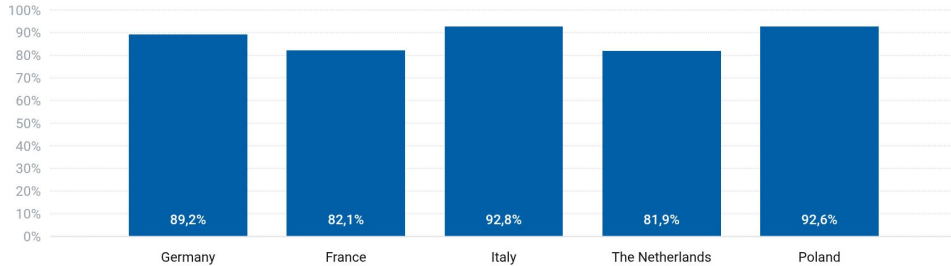
Overall, this indicates that there is also a predominantly critical attitude in Poland toward patents on naturally occurring plant traits.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

[Flexible Comparison](#)

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "When granting patents on genetically modified plants and their market authorisation, special consideration should be given to the protection of people and the environment"? Select all Agree completely Agree somewhat Agreement in a country comparison



Statistical details on the polls used here are available in the Civey dashboard.

Civey

In all countries surveyed, a very large majority believes that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents on genetically modified plants and when approving them for market release.

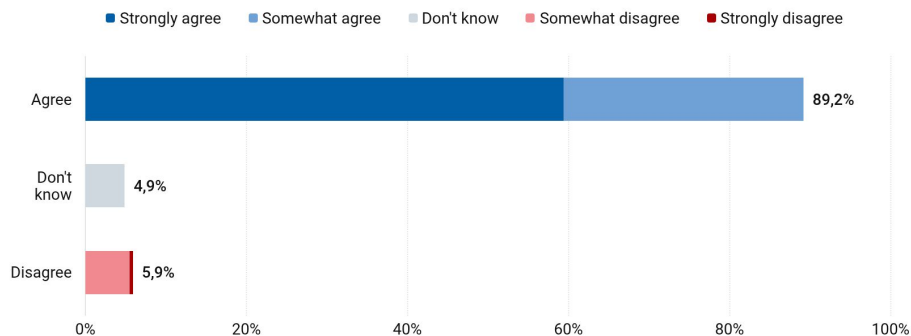
This support is particularly strong in Italy and Poland. The statement also enjoys very broad support in Germany. In France and the Netherlands, support is somewhat lower, but remains at a very high level.

Overall, there is thus a clear consensus across all countries in favor of high protection standards in the regulation of genetically modified plants.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

Germany | Germany adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with this statement: "When patents & market approvals are granted for genetically modified plants, human and environmental protection must be given special consideration?"



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Germany, a very large majority of the population believes that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents on genetically modified plants and when approving them for market release.

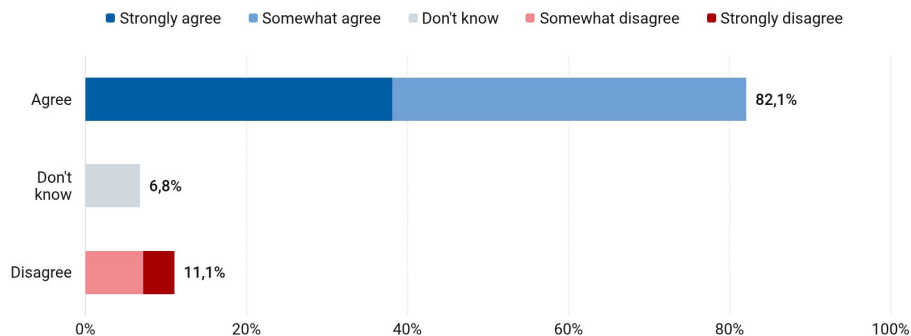
Many respondents expressly support this position. Opposing views are rare, while only a small portion of the population does not offer a clear opinion.

Overall, this indicates broad support in Germany for high standards of protection when dealing with genetically modified plants.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

France | France adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with this statement: "When patents & market approvals are granted for genetically modified plants, human and environmental protection must be given special consideration"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In France, a clear majority of the population believes that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents on genetically modified plants and approving them for market release.

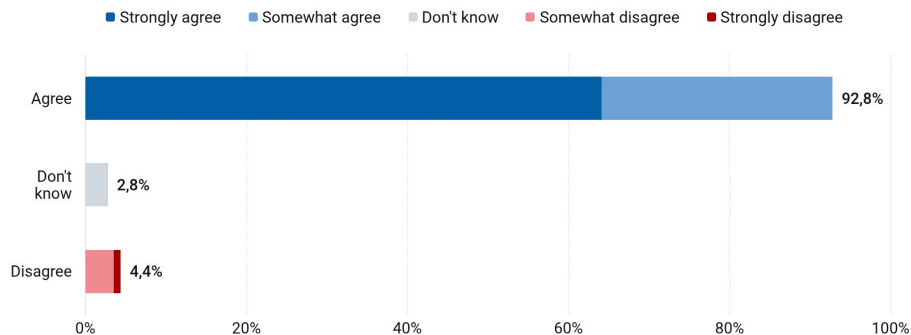
Many respondents clearly support this position. At the same time, compared to some other countries, a slightly larger proportion of people are uncertain or reject the statement.

Overall, however, support for high protection standards remains clearly in the majority in France as well.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

Italy | Italy adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with this statement: "When patents & market approvals are granted for genetically modified plants, human and environmental protection must be given special consideration"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 09.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

In Italy, a particularly large majority of the population believes that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents on genetically modified plants and when approving them for market release.

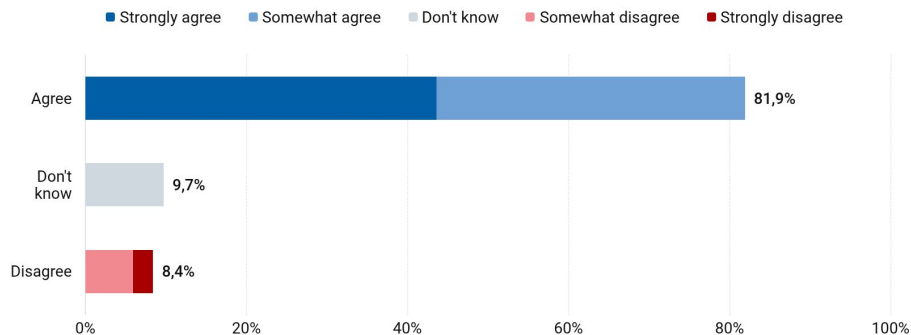
Many respondents support this position with full conviction. Opposing views are rare, and uncertainty also plays only a minor role.

Overall, this indicates very broad support for high protection standards when dealing with genetically modified plants.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

📍 Netherlands | Netherlands adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with this statement: "When patents & market approvals are granted for genetically modified plants, human and environmental protection must be given special consideration"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 06.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

A clear majority of the population in the Netherlands believes that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents on genetically modified plants and when approving them for market release.

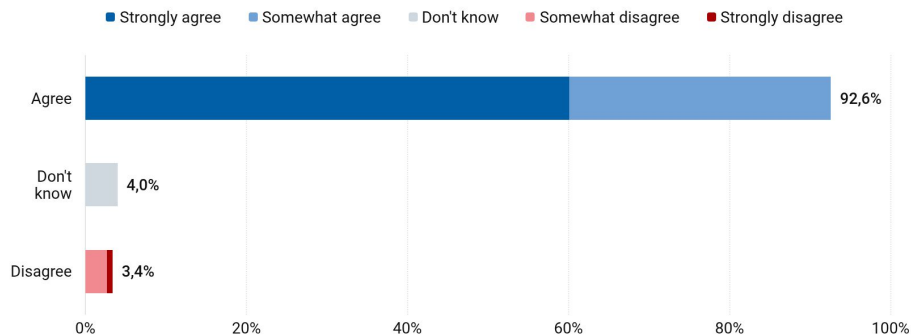
Although the level of support is somewhat lower than in some of the other countries surveyed, it is still clearly in the majority. Opposition remains the exception, while a small proportion of respondents did not express a clear position.

Overall, this indicates broad support in the Netherlands as well for stricter safety standards regarding genetically modified plants.

Protecting People and the Environment in Patent Granting

Poland Poland adults (aged 18+)

To what extent do you agree with this statement: "When patents & market approvals are granted for genetically modified plants, human and environmental protection must be given special consideration"?



Project: Komm Study Patents | Margin of error (Overall result): 3,1% | Sample size: 1.000 | Fielding period: 05.03.26 - 05.03.26 (Wave 1)

Civey

Support for this demand is particularly high in Poland.

A very large majority of respondents believe that the protection of people and the environment should be given special consideration when granting patents for genetically modified plants and when approving them for market release. Opposition plays hardly any role, and only a few respondents are undecided.

Overall, this indicates very broad public support for strict safety requirements regarding the use of genetically modified plants.

Do you have any questions?

Your personal contact

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