The Amount of Information Influences the Perception of Nanotechnology used in the Domain of Food Industry



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# Table of Contents

Table of Contents
Foreword
Abstract
Introduction7
Information about and Perception of Nanotechnology7
Nanotechnology as a New Field of Science
What is Nanotechnology?
Nanotechnology in Food Products: Possibilities and Benefits
Nanotechnology in Food Products: Risks and Drawbacks10
Theoretical Background11
Perception Theories11
Communication Theories14
Bias of Human Risk-Perception15
Perception of Nanotechnology in Food Products: A Literature Review.
Purpose of the Study
Research Question and Hypotneses
Respondents
Research Design
Materials
Research Instruments
Textual Factors24
Attitude25
Risk-perception25
Dread25
Trust in Governmental Control26
Avoidance Behaviour
Controllability
Benefits26
Procedure

Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 3

Analysis	28
Kruskal-Wallis Test.	28
One Way ANOVA and Independent Samples T-test.	28
Bivariate Correlation	29
Repeated Measures ANOVA, Post-hoc Bonferroni, Paired Sample	es T-
test and Descriptive Statistics	29
Results	30
Comparability: Textual Factors	30
Randomization: Dependent Variables	31
Perception of Nanotechnology after Reading all Three Texts	32
Correlation Matrixes for the Pre, Intermediate and Post Measure	33
Testing Hypothesis 1	36
Testing Hypothesis 2	37
Testing Hypothesis 3	43
Testing Hypothesis 4	47
Discussion and Conclusion	48
Discussion of the Results	49
Comparability of Texts and Randomization of Groups.	49
Perception of Nanotechnology and the Influence of Information	49
Generalizability	51
Strong Points of the Study	52
Drawbacks of the Study and Implications for Further Research	52
Implications for the Practice	53
Conclusion	54
References	55
Illustration Credits	58
Annendix	59
Annendix A	50
Annendix B	63
Appendix C	71
	/1

## Foreword

This paper is a bachelor thesis from the theme behaviour and human of the University of Twente and can be understood as a follow-up research of the master thesis from Brown (2014). The topic comes from the department of Psychology of Conflict, Risk and Safety. The purpose of this research is to understand the relationship between the amount of information and the perception of the public toward nanotechnology.

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## Abstract

This study examines the relationship between the amount of information a respondent gets and his perception of nanotechnology in the context of food products. The respondents (N = 114) were assigned to three conditions. In each condition the respondents got three informational texts. Each group received the same texts but in a different order for reason of randomization. They were controlled for comparability so that it could be assured that the amount of information was the independent variable. Three measures of constructs of perception were executed: Before reading a text, after reading one and after reading all three texts. The results indicated that the respondents had a more negative perception the more information they got and that the first information the respondents got had the most impact on the perception.

## Introduction

## Information about and Perception of Nanotechnology

The application of nanotechnology will increase in the following years and people will be confronted with this issue. Research shows that people don't know much about nanotechnology and that their views are inconsistent (Vandermoere, Blanchemanche, Bieberstein, Marette and Roosen, 2011). As the food industry is one of the major fields which directly affects the consumer, it is important to understand the public's reaction to information about nanotechnology used in food products. The understanding can pave the way of an effective communication towards the consumers. Research showed that the amount of information has impact on the accuracy and confidence regarding a judgement (Tsai, Klayman and Hastie, 2008). This paper examines the influence of the amount of information on the perception of nanotechnology and focuses on the relationship between the two. The question this paper tries to answer is thus:

"Which influence has the given amount of information about nanotechnology, used in the contexts of food products, on its perception?"

Therefore, nanotechnology as a new field of science and its application in the food industry is introduced first. Second, important concepts, models and biases of human risk-perception are discussed.

#### Nanotechnology as a New Field of Science

## What is Nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is one of the biggest inventions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is involved in many different areas of human living. For example, there are fields of its application in science and engineering, materials science, energy matters, ecology, electricity, medicine, agriculture and the food industry (Rouvre, Scemla, Mini and Samai 2010).

The name nanotechnology comes from nanometre. That is a unit of length. It's a millionth of a meter or  $10^{-9}$  meter (Rouvre et al., 2010). Thus a nanometre is very small. The nanotechnology works at the dimension of atoms and molecules. Within this new science, it is possible to move atom by atom to change and improve existing materials or to build new sub-stances that doesn't exist in natural ways on earth. If working at this dimension, pure substances can change their physical and chemical properties. For example, gold is a conducting medium at the micro dimension but it is not at the nano-dimension. Because nanoparticles have a bigger surface in relation to their volume compared to microparticles (BUND, 2008), they are also more chemical reactive. This is a reason why it is possible to change properties of materials with this new technology and this change of properties is what nanotechnology is trying to exploit. For example it is possible to create hydrophobic cotton, to print a flexible organic display or to create a medicament that finds its way through the body to a desired destination and releases the pharmaceutical ingredients at the right spot. All these things are already happening these days. Because of all that new possibilities to create, to make things more efficient and effective, nanotechnology is expanding and will keep expanding in the following years (Rouvre et al., 2010). Nanotechnology is also used in food Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 8

products and food packaging and this application will also increase dramatically in the following years. This is the context on which the paper is focussed on and therefore benefits and drawbacks of the use of nanotechnology in the food domain are discussed next.

#### Nanotechnology in Food Products: Possibilities and Benefits.

The use of nanotechnology in the framework of the food industry can be very useful. It is possible to improve every step in the food chain of industry (Brown, 2014). The food chain of industry includes the production, the packaging, the transport as well as the disposal of waste. The production can be made more efficient and cheaper (Rouvre et al., 2010). The packaging can be modified in a way that it is able to release nutrients into the food product or that the occurring waste is biodegradable (BUND, 2008).

Furthermore it is possible to change characteristics of food itself with the help of nanotechnology. For example a mayonnaise can be created which has the same taste as the normal product but is made to the biggest part up of water (Brown, 2014). Also, the proportion of minerals and vitamins of a food product can be increased easily (BUND, 2008). Like medicaments, active substances as vitamin A and B, omega 3 or the coenzyme q10 can be surrounded by a nanocapsule and added to a food product. The substances are transported to a desired location within the body where they are released. This already takes place in some milk, meat and bakery products. It is also possible to enhance the impact of flavouring substances and food colorants. By now, 130-600 products which are modified by nanotechnology are estimated to be available on the worldwide market (BUND, 2008).

Till this point, only the benefits and possibilities of the nanotechnology were mentioned, but what are the risks and drawbacks of nanotechnology within the context of food products?

## Nanotechnology in Food Products: Risks and Drawbacks.

Because no risks for the human health are known, there is no obligation to label products which are modified by nanotechnology. The fact that no risks to human health are known sounds pretty supportive for using nanotechnology in the food production, but not knowing a risk should not be confused with the nonexistence of these. There is little research done regarding the short-term risk and hardly any regarding the long-term risks of this technology. This might be and important reason for not knowing any risks regarding this issue. Nanotechnology is a very new and still developing technology. There wasn't enough time doing long-term research (Rouvre et al., 2010).

Despite the lack of time, research suggests that some risks are associated with nanotechnology. Because the particles are so small, they could easily pass through important barriers in the human body such as the blood-brain barrier. Their small size and their high binding capacity makes it easier for them to enter into cells and organs and to settle at a cells surface. In an in-vivo experiment, zinc-nanoparticles caused heavy damage in organs and provoked anaemia, which is a decrease in red blood cells (BUND, 2008). It is important to notice that this experiment was carried out with unrealistic high dosage of nanoparticles (Rouvre et al., 2010).

Also, there are risks for the environment indicated. Researchers are sure that none degradable nanoparticles will remain in the environment, if they will be used Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 10

in a higher extent. Nanotechnology is also applied to the agriculture in the form of pesticides and fertilizers. The risks associated with it are also unknown, but it's feared that the particles could reach the groundwater and could enter and disturb the whole ecological system. The nanoparticles could also concentrate within the food chain and have therefore an extensive impact.

Research shows that after the influence of ultraviolet light the frequently used nano-titanium oxide is toxic for algae and water fleas, which are used as indicator species for the ecological system. The impact of nanotechnology on plants isn't examined yet (BUND, 2008).

However, nanotechnology will heavily grow in the future and therefore consumer's trust is important to obtain. To achieve that, it is crucial to understand the relationship between provided information and the perception of humans of this new technology. To make the understanding of this relationship possible, theories about human risk-perception and information processing are crucial to examine and will be reviewed in the next section.

## Theoretical Background

Important models, constructs and biases of human perception and human communication are discussed to build a basis for understanding the relationship between the amount of information and the perception of people.

#### Perception Theories.

A major theory in the field of perception or more precise in the field of riskperception is the psychometric paradigm developed by Slovic, Fischhoff and Lichtenstein (Slovic, Fischoff, Lichtenstein, 1985; Brown, 2014). The

psychometric paradigm is a taxonomic approach to predict how potential hazards are perceived by the public. The paradigm can be reduced to a two factor model. Each of the factors is to be understood as a dimension with a high and a low end.

The first factor is called the "dread" of a risk. At the high end of this dimension it includes the perceived lack of control, fatal consequences, catastrophic potential, inequitable distribution of risk and benefit and dread. Nuclear weapons and nuclear power are scoring high in this dimension (Slovic and Weber, 2002).

The second factor is called the unknown factor of risk. At the high end of this dimension it implies that the hazard is not observable, that it's unknown, new and that the manifestation of the negative consequences is delayed. DNA and chemicals are a good example for scoring high on this dimension (Slovic et al., 2002).

It is important to notice that this paradigm is only accurate in predicting the risk perception of laypeople. The meaning of experts is more closely related to the expected annual mortality rate of a potential hazard than to the factors described in the psychometric paradigm (Slovic et al., 2002). An illustration of this two factor model is shown below in figure 1.

Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 12





Psychometric Paradigm reduced to two factors and 81 of scored hazards (Slovic, 1985).

Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 13

#### Communication Theories.

The dual path model or Heuristic-Systematic Model of information processing plays a key role in the field of communication (Kim, Yeo, Brossard, Scheufele and Xenos, 2014; Fischer and Frewer, 2009). Following this theory, information can be processed in two different ways. The first process is called heuristic. It is fast and orients itself at superficial cues. The second is called systematic processing and the information is processed more deeply. Because of the deep processing it costs more cognitive energy and time (Kim et al., 2014).

Another model encountered in this context is called the RISP (risk information and processing) model (Fischer and Frewer, 2009). Partially, it relies on the Heuristic-Systematic Model (HSM). The RISP model implies that people are tending to search and processing information more actively, if they feel that they are lacking sufficient information, which is the systematic processing of the HSM. Information sufficiency is a state in which an individual has the feeling that it has enough information about a subject to form an attitude or opinion. The model implies, that if this state is achieved, people tend to process information that they receive after the state of information sufficiency is achieved, in a heuristic manner (Fischer et al., 2009).

There are other factors which can influence the reaction on provided information in the context of perception. Two of them are identified as the deference to scientific authority and ideological values (Kim, Yeo, Brossard, Scheufele and Xenos, 2014). Brossard and Nisbet are describing the construct of deference to scientific authorities as followed: "This construct captures the idea that citizens should not develop their own ideas about what is good or bad relative to a scientific controversy because legitimate authorities have already laid down the rules" (Scheufle Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 14

and Lee, 2006). The impact of ideological values is a more complex issue. Whether new technology is supported or not depends on the specific ideological value (Kim et al., 2014).

Another important factor which can influence the reaction on information is identified as the attitude towards an issue (Sjöberg, 2000).

#### Bias of Human Risk-Perception.

In the context of perception, humans tend to be influenced by several biases. An important and good known bias is the confirmation bias (Kim et al.). If people already have an attitude or opinion regarding an issue, they are likely to select information so that it is coherent with their pre-built meaning (Jones, Schulz-Hardt, Frey and Thelen, 2001). Thus another factor that can influence the reaction on information is the pre-existing attitude, but also expectations and the desired conclusion of the information seeker (Jones et al., 2001). Jones et al. mentioned that the confirmation bias leads to "the maintenance of the information seeker's position, even if this position is not justified on the basis of all available information."

### Perception of Nanotechnology in Food Products: A Literature Review.

Some research is already done on the specific field of nanotechnology used in food products, but the results seem to be ambivalent. In a study of Fischer, van Dijk, Jonge and Rowe (2012), providing information about benefits and risk did not change the average attitude towards nanotechnology in food products. Some people tended to be more negative and less ambivalent towards the subject, some people

tended to be more positive and also less ambivalent towards the subject. A third group tended to be more ambivalent after the provision of the information.

A research of Vandermoere et al. (2011) supports the finding about the ambiguity of the public regarding nanotechnology used in food products. Additionally, Vandermoere et al. found that people tended to be rather pessimistic towards nanotechnology in the food industry. Further the study suggested that the amount of knowledge has no impact on people's support of nanotechnology in this sector. Opposition to nanotechnology was related to trust in governmental agencies and change in attitude was related to views on science, technology and nature (Vandermoere et al., 2011).

A research of Brown (2014) revealed the finding that people tended to think more negative about nanotechnology in food products the more information they got. She offered the possible explanation that people could perceive an uncertainty about the risks because many of them are unknown, which would lead to a negative attitude. In contrast to Vandermoere et al. (2011), Brown found a negative relationship between the amount of information and the direction of attitude. Thus, the more information a participant got, the more negative his opinion was.

The results of a research of Siegrist, Cousin, Kastenholz and Wiek (2007) confirmed the negative view towards nanotechnology in the food domain by detecting an overall hesitant purchase behaviour of the respondents.

A study in the United States seems to support the pessimistic view of people regarding nanotechnology. Citizens of the USA are showing interest in information and labelling of nanotechnology on food products. The ability to choose and a possible chance to avoid risk are mentioned as reasons for the labelling, which [The Amount of Information Influences the Perception of Nanotechnology] could be thought of as a mistrust or at least as a concern about the new technology (Brown and Kuzma, 2013).

The role that the amount of information plays is unclear and ambivalent. This research tries to shed some light into the conflicting results of the mentioned studies and attempts to find an answer to the question: Which impact does the amount of information has on the perception of nanotechnology?

#### Purpose of the Study

This paper concentrates on the relationship between the amount of information given about the application of nanotechnology in the domain of food products and the perception of this issue. To understand more of the communication of the public this relationship might be important. It is a follow-up research and builds on the master thesis of Brown (2014). In the thesis some points for improvement were mentioned. They have been applied to this research.

The first point for improvement is related to the provided information. Brown (2014) used information texts from the internet, which were not controlled for homogeneity. Thus it couldn't be concluded if the amount of information or the information itself was the independent variable. Therefore texts were created consisting of different components which are equal in all provided texts for reason of homogeneity and comparability. It is necessary to ensure that the texts are interchangeable and that the *amount of information* is the independent variable. The second point was the lack of negative information about nanotechnology in the used information texts. Therefore, the used texts in this study contained more information about risks and negative consequences in contrast to the texts used

2014 by Brown to enhance the measured effects. Additionally, a problem of central tendency was mentioned. Therefore the Likert scale of the measurement instruments are extended from 5 to 7 to make central tendency more unlikely. At last there were some problems regarding the online-platform, thus another internet service for the questionnaires was used to avoid that participants could go back to already answered questions adjust their answers.

#### Research Question and Hypotheses

To this point factors influencing and models describing human perception and communication have been mentioned. The theories are crucial to understand more about these issues. The relationship between the amount of information and perception of nanotechnology is what this paper tries to analyse. Thus the question to be answered is:

"Which influence has the given amount of information about nanotechnology, used in the contexts of food products, on its perception?"

This question will be examined by searching for patterns in the scores on the dependent variables before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts. To get more insight into the occurring processes, four hypothesis will be tested. The whole paper builds on the hypothesis that the amount of information has impact on the perception of nanotechnology. The first hypothesis (in the following abbreviated with H) tested is thus:

H1: The amount of information has a significant effect on the dependent variables.

Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 18

Following the RISP-model, people search actively for information if they feel a lack of it to form an adequate opinion. By getting more and more information, the desire to search for more information is decreased, because the feeling of lack of information is reduced. Thus, if people got enough information to form a belief about and issue, they will process less information from following information. This leads to hypothesis one:

H2: The influence of information on the dependent variables declines with increasing amount of information.

Because of the confirmation bias people tend to process more information that verifies their previous beliefs than information that is contrary. Thus people tend to verify their existing beliefs with additional information rather than change their existing beliefs in the opposite direction, especially if they are certain about their belief. Supposed that scoring at the high or the low end of a scale implies a certain degree of certainty, this leads to hypothesis three:

H3: With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at *the high or the low end* of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction of the score.

If the information of nanotechnology is seen in the context of the two factors model of Slovic (1985), it would probably score high at the end of unknown risk and in the middle of dread of risk. That implies that the risk-perception of nanotechnology would be high. Supposed that a score in the middle of a scale implies a certain

degree of uncertainty of the respondent regarding the dependent variable, the respondent might be more influential by information than a respondent scoring at the high or low end of a scale. If the two factor model of Slovic et al. is applied to the field of nanotechnology it should be perceived as a high risk science. This leads to hypothesis four:

H4: With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at *the middle* of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction that implies a *negative* perception of nanotechnology.

#### Method

#### Respondents

A total of 124 respondents took part in the online research. Ten out of the 124 responses were deleted because these ten questionnaires were not filled in completely. The dropout rate was around 8 percent. Most of the remaining respondents (N = 114) were students from the University of Twente (N = 113), only one participant was a student form another university. Some students from the University of Twente were rewarded with a 0.5 participant credit, the other participants weren't rewarded at all. The average age of all respondents was 20.11 and ranged from 17 to 36. 76% of the respondents were female (N = 87) and 24% were male (N = 27). 58 participants were from the Netherlands (51%) and 56 from Germany (49%). The difference in age ( $F(2, 111) = 0.14 \ p = 0.87$ ) and gender ( $X^2(2,N = 114) = 0.24 \ p = 0.89$ ) between the groups was not significant. An overview of the distribution of age and gender is shown in table 1.

	Age		Ger	Gender			
	Mean	SD	Male	Female			
Group 1	20.27	2.18	9	28	37		
Group 2	20.08	3.16	10	29	39		
Group 3	19.97	1.99	8	30	38		
Total	20.11	2.49	27	87	114		

Mean and Standard Deviation (SD) of Age and Distribution of Gender per Group

## Research Design

The respondents were assigned to one of three groups, which were provided with information about nanotechnology used in food products. The information was provided on the basis on three texts: A, B and C. Each group was provided with the same texts but in another sequence for reason of randomization. Group 1 was assigned to the A-B-C sequence, group 2 to the B-C-A sequence and group 3 to the C-A-B sequence. The provided texts contained different information, but the information could be categorized into the same factors. To assure that the measured effects can be referred to the number of texts provided and not to the content of the information, the texts were adjusted with the help of the risk-perception factors identified by Slovic, Fischhoff and Lichtenstein in 1985 and by some factors mentioned by Brown (2014). A more detailed description of the text construction is mentioned in the materials (first para.).

At first a pre-measure (before reading a text) of the dependent variables took place. Then the first information text was provided, followed by an intermediate measure of the dependent variables and the textual factors. After the intermediate

measure, the participants were provided with the other two texts, followed by a post measure of the dependent variables. An illustration of the research design is demonstrated in figure 2.





Illustration of the research design.

Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 23

#### Materials

The respondents were provided with three informational texts about nanotechnology. The texts were created with the help of different categories. The categories were extracted from the two factor model of Slovic (1985) and from Brown (2014). Each text contained three elements of dread, one of trust in governmental control, one of perceived lack of control, one of negative consequences and three of benefits. For an illustration of the texts and the different components see appendix A and B.

#### Research Instruments

The measuring instruments consisted of 24 items measuring textual factors (5 items) and the dependent variables: attitude (3 items), risk-perception (4 items), dread (2 items), trust in governmental control (2 items), avoidance behaviour (3 items), controllability (2 items) and benefits (3 items). Each construct was measured three times, except for the textual factors. These were measured only once and only for checking for comparability and equality of the three texts. All items were measured with a seven-point Likert scale. For the reliability of the instruments see table 2.

## Textual Factors.

The three texts were controlled for comparability and equality. The check for comparability was very important, because a comparability of the texts assured that the independent variable was the number of texts read and not the content of information. The check was executed by using five different items measuring textual factors. These factors were: accuracy, reliability, one-sidedness, clearness

and credibility. Each of the items was taken apart. Therefore no correlation coefficients and no alphas are calculated.

#### Attitude.

Attitude was measured with three items. The question was: "Wat vind je van het toepassen van nanotechnologie in voeding?" and had to be answered within the help of three, dimensional answers. Thus this item measured three different aspects of attitude towards nanotechnology. The construct of attitude had a good reliability with  $\alpha = .92$  at the pre measurement,  $\alpha = .90$  at the intermediate measurement and  $\alpha = .91$  at the post measurement.

#### Risk-perception.

Risk-perception was measured with four items. A typical question for this construct was: "Ik denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten slecht zijn voor mijn gezondheid". The construct of risk-perception had a good reliability with  $\alpha = .93$  at the pre measurement,  $\alpha = .90$  at the intermediate measurement and  $\alpha = .91$  at the post measurement.

#### Dread.

Dread was measured with two items. An example of an item is: "Ik vrees de negatieven gevolgen van het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid." The two items of dread showed a strong positive correlation at all three measurements ( $r(112) = .70 \ p \le 0.001$ ,  $r(112) = .57 \ p \le 0.001$ ,  $r(112) = .77 \ p \le 0.001$ ).

#### Trust in Governmental Control.

Trust in governmental control was measured with two items. An example is: "Ik vertrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn." The two items of governmental control had a strong positive correlation at the pre measurement ( $r(112) = .91, p \le 0.001$ ), the intermediate measurement ( $r(112) = .90, p \le 0.001$ ) and the post measurement ( $r(112) = 0.93, p \le 0.001$ ).

#### Avoidance Behaviour.

Avoidance behaviour was measured with three items. An example for an item is: "Als ik weet dat er nanotechnologie is gebruikt in een voedingsmiddel, kies ik een ander product". This construct had a good reliability at the pre-measurement ( $\alpha = .94$ ), the intermediate measurement ( $\alpha = .90$ ) and the post measurement ( $\alpha = .90$ ).

#### Controllability.

This construct was measured with two items. An example for an item measuring this construct is: "Ik vind de risico's bij het gebruik van verpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten goed beheersbaar." The two items were highly correlated at all three measures ( $r(112) = .77 \ p \le 0.001$ ,  $r(112) = .70 \ p \le 0.001$ ,  $r(112) = .82 \ p \le 0.001$ ).

## Benefits.

Benefits were measured with three items. An example is: "Ik vind dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 26

de houdbaarheid van voedingswaren." The reliability of this construct was barley high enough at the pre measurement ( $\alpha = .59$ ). At the intermediate and post measurement was the reliability sufficient ( $\alpha = .64$ ,  $\alpha = .68$ ).

#### Table 2

Construct	Number of	Pre measurement	Intermediate measurement	Post measurement	Sort of
	Items				Instrument
Attitude	3	α = .92	$\alpha = .90$	$\alpha = .91$	Scale
Risk-Perception	4	α = .93	α = .90	α = .91	Scale
Dread	2	<i>r</i> = .70	<i>r</i> = .57	<i>r</i> = .77	Scale
Trust in	2	<i>r</i> = .91	<i>r</i> = .90	<i>r</i> = .93	Scale
Governmental					
Control					
Avoidance	3	α = .94	α = .90	$\alpha = .90$	Scale
behaviour					
Controllability	2	<i>r</i> = .86	<i>r</i> = .82	<i>r</i> = .90	Scale
Benefits	3	α = .59	α = .64	$\alpha = .68$	Scale

## Degree of Reliability per Construct at Pre, Intermediate and Post Measure

## Procedure

The questionnaire and the texts were provided via the online-platform *qualtrics.com*. A total of 30 minutes was necessary to complete the survey. The respondents were informed about their rights before the research started. First a pre measure (before reading a text) of the dependent variables took place. In the next step the respondents were provided with the first informational text followed by an

intermediate measure of the textual factors and the dependent variables. Then the other two texts were provided followed by a post measure of the dependent variables.

## Analysis

The statistical analysis software SPSS v.22 from IBM was used for the analysis of the gathered data.

#### Kruskal-Wallis Test.

For controlling of group differences of the textual factors, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis test was used. The dependent variables were the textual factor items: accuracy, reliability, one-sidedness, clearness and credibility. The independent variable was the text presented first. It was checked for differences in the mean scores.

## One Way ANOVA and Independent Samples T-test.

For controlling the mean scores between the groups, a one way ANOVA was used. The dependent variables were the different constructs: attitude, risk-perception, dread, and trust in governmental control, avoidance behaviour, controllability and benefits. The score was averaged for the pre, intermediate and post measure. The factor variable was the grouping variable: group A, B and C. It was controlled if a significant difference between the groups was measurable at the pre measure.

#### Bivariate Correlation.

To get a general impression of the relationships between the different constructs, correlation matrixes for pre, intermediate and post measure were constructed.

# Repeated Measures ANOVA, Post-hoc Bonferroni, Paired Samples T-test and Descriptive Statistics.

For testing H1 a repeated measures ANOVA was used. The dependent variables for each ANOVA were the different constructs. The independent variable was the within-subject factor texts read, represented by the different number of texts read. It was checked if a main effect of the WSF texts read was measurable. If a main effect was measurable the construct was analysed further to test H2. The significance of the difference scores of the pre and intermediate measure and of the intermediate and post measure were checked with the help of a post-hoc Bonferroni test and then calculated. After that, with the help of a paired sample t test, it was checked if the difference between the two difference scores was significant. The difference score of pre and intermediate measure was variable 1 and the difference score of the intermediate and post measure was variable 2. The direction of the difference was controlled manually with the help of descriptive statistics.

For testing H3 and H4 a repeated measures ANOVA was used, too. The dependent variables for each ANOVA were the different constructs. Before selecting the independent variables a new grouping variable was created. For each construct, the respondents were divided into subgroups at the hand of the score of the pre measure. Scores from 1 to 3 were grouped into subgroup 1, scores from 3.01 to 5 were assigned to subgroup 2 and scores from 5.01 to 7 were assigned to subgroup 3. The independent variable was the WSF texts read but only with the

intermediate and post measure. This was chosen because the new grouping variable was based on the pre measure. The second independent variable was the betweensubject factor subgroup. It was controlled if a main effect of texts read and/or subgroup was measurable. If this was the case, the item was analysed further with the help of a paired sample t-test. Variable 1 was the averaged score from the pre measure, variable 2 was the averaged score from the post measure. The direction of the difference was controlled manually with the help of descriptive statistics.

#### Results

## Comparability: Textual Factors

In this section the results of the questionnaires about the textual factors are reported. The textual factors were registered as a check for comparability and equality, only. For all five items, the three groups did not differ significantly  $(X^2(2, N = 114) = 0.70 p = 0.70, X^2(2, N = 114) = 2.36 p = 0.31, X^2(2, N = 114) = 0.51 p = 0.78, X^2(2, N = 114) = 1.25 p = 0.54, X^2(2, N = 114) = 0.23 p = 0.89)$ . This was also true for the mean of the five items (F(2, 111) = 0.09 p = 0.92). The texts were perceived as accurate (M = 4.84), clear (M = 5.39) and credible (M = 4.88). The reliability was rated as neutral (M = 4.33) and the texts were n't perceived as one-sided (M = 3.15). The results indicate that the independent variable is the number of texts and not the content of information. The mean score, the value of X<sup>2</sup> and the level of significance per textual factor at the pre measure is represented in table 3.

Mean Score, Value of  $X^2$  and Level of Significance per Textual Factor at the Pre

#### Measure

Textual Factor	Mean of	Mean of	Mean of	Mean of	$X^2$	р
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Total		
Accuracy	5.03	4.77	4.74	4.84	0.70	.70
Reliability	4.46	4.13	4.42	4.33	2.36	.31
One-sidedness	3.00	3.15	3.29	3.15	0.51	.78
Clearness	5.53	5.54	5.18	5.39	1.25	.54
Credibility	4.73	5.00	4.89	4.88	0.23	.92

## Randomization: Dependent Variables

In this section it is controlled if the groups were randomly selected. This is important to get valid results.

Regarding the pre measure, the mean results did not differ significantly between the groups for attitude ( $F(2, 111) = 1.40 \ p = .25$ ), risk-perception (F(2, 111) = 1.12, p = .33), dread (F(2, 111) = 0.68, p = .51), trust in governmental control (F(2, 111) = 0.00, p = 1.00), avoidance behaviour (F(2, 111) = 0.49, p = .62), controllability ( $F(2, 111) = 1.18 \ p = .31$ ) and benefits ( $F(2, 111) = 0.13 \ p = .88$ ). The respondents scored averaged in a range of 3.76 and 4.49 at dependent variables. The middle of the score was 4. Thus the respondents had in average a neutral perception of all dependent variables at the pre measure. The results are verifying the randomization of the groups. The mean scores, values of F and level of significance per construct at the pre measure are shown on table 4

Mean Score, Value of F and Level of Significance per Construct at the Pre Measure.

Construct	Mean of	Mean of	Mean of	Mean of	F	р
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Total		
Attitude	4.15	4.50	4.58	4.42	1.40	.25
<b>Risk-Perception</b>	4.27	3.96	3.87	4.03	1.12	.33
Dread	4.57	4.28	4.25	4.36	0.68	.51
Trust in	4.50	4.47	4.49	4.49	0.00	.99
Governmental						
Control						
Avoidance	3.94	3.75	3.59	3.76	0.49	.62
Behaviour						
Controllability	3.70	3.59	4.00	3.76	1.18	.31
Benefits	4.19	4.16	4.26	4.20	1.28	.28

## Perception of Nanotechnology after Reading all Three Texts

The respondents showed a slightly negative attitude (M = 3.21) after reading all informational texts. The risk-perception was high (M = 5.29) as the perceived dread (M = 5.15). The trust in governmental control (M = 2.96) and the perceived controllability (M = 2.90) was low. The potential avoidance behaviour was slightly high (M = 4.87) and the perceived benefits were in the neutral (M = 3.87). The respondents perceived the use of nanotechnology in the domain of food production less positive than at the beginning. Figures showing the mean scores of the constructs relative to the texts read are shown in the paragraph of testing H2. The mean scores of the respondents after reading all three texts are shown in table 5.

Mean Scores after all Three Informational Texts Were Read

~		~~~
Construct	Mean	SD
Attitude	3.21	1.26
Risk-Perception	5.29	1.07
Dread	5.15	1.25
	• • • •	1.66
Trust in Governmental Control	2.96	1.66
Avoidance Dehaviour	1 97	1 2 1
Avoluance benaviour	4.87	1.51
Controllability	2 00	1.24
Controllability	2.90	1.24
Benefits	3 87	1 1 4
Denents	5.07	1.17

## Correlation Matrixes for the Pre, Intermediate and Post Measure

Many of the constructs correlated which each other. Therefore a correlation matrix for the measure before reading a text (pre measure), after reading one text (intermediate measure) and after reading all three texts (post measure) is shown below in table 6, 7 and 8.

The constructs attitude and risk-perception correlated strongly ( $\geq$ .60) negative in all three conditions (r = -.64, r = -.73, r = -.70). Risk-perception and dread (r = .77, r = .76, r = .75) and the constructs risk-perception and avoidance behaviour (r = .74, r = .64, r = .68) correlated strongly positive at all three conditions. Dread and avoidance behaviour correlated strongly positive at the pre measure (r = .69) and attitude and avoidance behaviour correlated strongly negative at the intermediate (r = -.64) and post measure (r = .70). At the post measure, controllability correlated strongly positive with attitude (r = .67) and trust in

governmental control (r = .62) and negative with risk perception (r = -.60) and avoidance behaviour (r = -.62).

## Table 6

Correlation Matrix of all Dependent Variables for the Pre Measure (N = 114)

		Risk-			Avoidance		
	Attitude	Perception	Dread	Trust	Behaviour	Controllability	Benefits
Attitude	1						
Risk-	64**	1					
Perception							
Dread	56**	.77**	1				
Trust	.50**	53**	63**	1			
Avoidance	59**	.74**	.69**	54**	1		
Behaviour							
Controllability	.54**	53**	53**	.47**	56**	1	
Benefits	.58**	50**	31**	.39**	38**	.38**	1

*Note:* \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Correlation Matrix of all Dependent Variables for the Intermediate Measure (N =

114)

	Risk-			Avoidance			
	Attitude	Perception	Dread	Trust	Behaviour	Controllability	Benefits
Attitude	1						
Risk-	73**	1					
Perception							
Dread	55**	.76**	1				
Trust	.49**	50**	45**	1			
Avoidance	64**	.64**	.55**	43**	1		
Behaviour							
Controllability	.55**	44**	41**	.45**	54**	1	
Benefits	.44**	32**	19**	.31**	35**	.33**	1

*Note:* \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Correlation Matrix of all Dependent Variables for the Post Measure (N = 114)

		Risk-			Avoidance		
	Attitude	Perception	Dread	Trust	Behaviour	Controllability	Benefits
Attitude	1						
Risk-	70**	1					
Perception							
Dread	52**	.75**	1				
Trust	.49**	48**	31**	1			
Avoidance	70**	<b>.6</b> 8**	.53**	34**	1		
Behaviour							
Controllability	.67**	60**	46**	.62**	62**	1	
Benefits	.55**	37**	23**	.33**	38**	.43**	1

*Note:* \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). \*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

## Testing Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis 1 was: "The amount of information has a significant effect on the dependent variables." The analysis revealed that the number of texts read had influence on the attitude ( $F(2, 111) = 60.38 \ p \le 0.001$ ), risk-perception ( $F(2, 111) = 94.19 \ p \le 0.001$ ), dread ( $F(2, 111) = 23.36, \ p \le 0.001$ ), trust in governmental control ( $F(2, 111) = 76.96 \ p \le 0.001$ ), avoidance behaviour ( $F(2, 111) = 60.31 \ p \le 0.001$ ), controllability ( $F(2, 111) = 40.86 \ p \le 0.001$ ) and
benefits ( $F(2, 111) = 6.80 \ p \le 0.001$ ). The hypothesis was tested two-sided and was verified. The values of F and the level of significance of the number of texts read are shown in table 9.

### Table 9

Mean Scores per Construct at Pre Measure (M1), Intermediate Measure (M2) and Post Measure (M3) and Value of F and Level of Significance for Texts Read per Construct

Construct	<i>M</i> of M1	<i>M</i> of M2	<i>M</i> of M3	F	р
Attitude	4.42	3.58	3.21	60.38	≤.001
Risk-Perception	4.03	4.94	5.29	94.19	≤.001
Dread	4.36	4.85	5.15	23.36	≤.001
Trust in Governmental	4.49	3.44	2.96	76.96	≤.001
Control					
Avoidance Behaviour	3.76	4.60	4.87	60.31	≤.001
Controllability	3.76	3.20	2.89	40.86	≤.001
Benefits	4.20	4.01	3.87	6.80	≤.001

#### Testing Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis 2 was: "The influence of information on the dependent variables declines with increasing amount of information." The effect of the number of texts read on the dependent variables is shown already (table 9), therefore the differences between the scores were investigated further. Post-hoc bonferroni analysis revealed that the difference of the pre to intermediate and intermediate to post measure was

significant for: attitude ( $MD = 0.84 \ SD = 0.12 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = 0.36 \ SD = 0.09 \ p \le .001$ ), risk-perception ( $MD = -0.91 \ SD = 0.10 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = -0.34 \ SD = 0.07 \ p \le .001$ ), dread ( $MD = -0.48 \ SD = 0.12 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = -0.30 \ SD = 0.10 \ p \le .001$ ), trust in governmental control ( $MD = 1.05 \ SD = 0.13 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = 0.48 \ SD = 0.08 \ p \le .001$ ), avoidance behaviour ( $MD = -0.84 \ SD = 0.11 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = -0.28 \ SD = 0.07 \ p \le .001$ ), controllability ( $MD = 0.57 \ SD = 0.10 \ p \le .001$ ,  $MD = 0.30 \ SD \ = 0.07 \ p \le .001$ ) and benefits ( $MD = 0.19 \ SD = 0.08 \ p = .04$ ). For benefits the intermediate to post measure difference was not significant ( $MD = 0.14 \ SD = 0.09 \ p = .19$ ). The hypothesis was tested one-sided. The means of the differences, the standard deviation and the level of significance of the difference scores are shown in table 10.

### Table 10

Signi	ficance o	of the	Difference	Scores	per	Construct	of	Post-hoc	Bon	ferroi	ni
					F -		/				

Construct	Pre – Intermediate		ate Intermediate			
	MD	SD	р	MD	SD	р
Attitude	0.84	0.12	≤.001	0.36	0.09	≤ .001
Risk-Perception	-0.91	0.10	≤ .001	-0.34	0.07	≤ .001
Dread	-0.48	0.12	≤.001	-0.30	0.10	≤ .001
Trust in Governmental	1.05	0.13	≤ .001	0.48	0.08	≤ .001
Control						
Avoidance Behaviour	-0.84	0.11	≤ .001	-0.28	0.07	≤ .001
Controllability	0.57	0.10	≤ .001	0.30	0.07	≤ .001
Benefits	0.19	0.08	.04	0.14	0.09	.19

The differences were all significant except for intermediate to post measure of benefits. For reason of completeness, all constructs, including benefits, were analysed further. The mean scores per construct relative to the number of texts read are shown in figure 3 to 8.

These analysis showed that the difference in attitude was significant larger after reading the first text than after reading the other two (t(133) = 2.84 p = 0.01).



Figure 3.

Mean score of attitude before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.

This was also true for: risk-perception ( $t(133) = -4.15 \ p \le 0.001$ ), trust in governmental control ( $t(133) = 3.64 \ p \le 0.001$ ), avoidance behaviour ( $t(133) = -.00 \ p \le 0.001$ ) and controllability ( $t(133) = 2.08 \ p = 0.02$ ).



Figure 4.

Mean score of risk-perception before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all

three texts.



Figure 5.

Mean score of trust in governmental control before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.



Figure 6.

Mean score of avoidance behaviour before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.



Figure 7.

Mean score of controllability before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.

The effect was not significant for dread (t(133) = -0.98, p = 0.16) and benefits ( $t(133) = 0.40 \ p = 0.70$ )



Figure 8.

Mean score of dread before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.



Figure 9.

Mean score of benefits before reading a text, after reading one text and after reading all three texts.

Most of the results are verifying that the effect on the dependent variables decreases with increasing numbers of texts read. The effect was present for all constructs except for perceived dread and benefits.

#### *Testing Hypothesis 3*

Hypothesis 3 was: "With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at the high or the low end of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction of the score." For testing this hypothesis, the set of respondents was divided into three subgroups to operationalize the low end, high end and middle score respondents. Subgroup 1 were those with a score of 1 to 2.99 (low end group), subgroup 2 were those with a score of 3 to 4.99 (middle score group) and subgroup 3 were those with a score of 5 to 7 (high end group). The division was based on the pre measure thus before the respondents read a text. How the sample was divided is shown for each construct in table 11.

### Table 11

Construct	Subgroup 1 (%)	Subgroup 2 (%)	Subgroup 3 (%)
Attitude	11.4	47.4	41.2
Risk-Perception	19.3	57.0	23.7
Dread	13.2	41.2	45.6
Trust in Governmental	19.3	24.6	56.1
Control			
Avoidance Behaviour	29.8	43.0	27.2
Controllability	22.8	57.9	19.3
Benefits	6.1	70.2	23.7

Respondents Assigned to Subgroup 1, Subgroup 2 and Subgroup 3 per Construct

The number of texts read was significant for attitude  $(F(1, 111) = 14.62, p \le 0.001)$ , risk-perception  $(F(1, 111) = 23.80 \ p \le 0.001)$ , trust in governmental control  $(F(1, 111) = 18.07 \ p \le 0.001)$ , avoidance behaviour  $(F(1, 111) = 14.99 \ p \le 0.001)$ , controllability  $(F(1, 111) = 21.90 \ p and dread <math>(F(1, 111) = 3.05 \ p = 0.04)$ . For the construct benefits  $(F(1, 111) = 0.67 \ p = 0.42)$ , the number of texts had not a significant effect.

The effect of the subgroups was significant for all constructs: attitude  $(F(2, 111) = 12.88 \ p \le 0.001)$ , risk-perception  $(F(2, 111) = 19.89 \ p \le 0.001)$ , dread  $(F(2, 111) = 10.59 \ p , trust in governmental control <math>(F(2, 111) = 17.93 \ p \le 0.001)$ , avoidance behaviour  $(F(2, 111) = 37.53 \ p \le 0.001)$ , controllability  $(F(2, 111) = 21.20 \ p \le 0.001)$  and benefits  $(F(2, 111) = 21.70 \ p \le 0.001)$ . The value of *F* and the level of significance per construct is listed in table 12.

### Table 12

Value of F and level of significance for numbers of texts read and subgroups as another independent variable

	Te	exts Read		Subgroups
Construct	F	р	F	р
Attitude	14.62	≤.001	12.88	≤.001
Risk-Perception	23.80	≤.001	19.89	≤ .001
Dread	3.05	.04	10.59	.04
Trust in Governmental	18.07	≤.001	17.93	≤.001
Control				

Avoidance Behaviour	14.99	≤ .001	37.53	≤ .001
Controllability	21.90	≤ .001	21.20	≤ .001
Benefits	0.67	.42	21.70	≤ .001

[The Amount of Information Influences the Perception of Nanotechnology]

The high end group of the construct risk-perception scored significant higher after reading the three texts (mean intermediate = 5.66 mean post = 6.15 t(113) = -2.86,  $p \le 0.001$ ) and the low end group of the construct trust in governmental control did significantly deepen into the negative direction (mean intermediate = 2.72 mean post = 2.56  $t(113) = 2.52 \ p = 0.01$ ). Those findings support the hypothesis, whereas the scores of the high end group of the constructs attitude (mean intermediate = 4.41 mean post = 4.11  $t(113) = 8.74 \ p \le 0.001$ ), dread (mean intermediate = 5.42 mean post = 5.81  $t(113) = -1.04 \ p = 0.15$ ), trust in governmental control (mean intermediate = 4.25 mean post = 3.84  $t(113) = 10.64 \ p \le 0.001$ ), avoidance behaviour (mean intermediate = 5.27 mean post = 5.64  $t = -1.25 \ p = 0.11$ ), controllability (mean intermediate = 3.89 mean post = 3.61  $t(113) = 5.57 \ p \le 0.001$ ) and benefits (mean intermediate = 4.36 mean post = 4.22  $t(113) = 3.11 \ p \le 0.001$ ) did not support or contradicted the hypothesis.

The scores of the low end group of the constructs attitude (mean intermediate = 2.69 mean post = 2.49 t(113) = 0.99, p = 0.17), risk-perception (mean intermediate = 4.26 mean post = 4.58  $t(113) = -9.48 \ p \le 0.01$ ), dread (mean intermediate = 4.23 mean post = 4.36  $t(113) = -5.06 \ p \le 0.01$ ), avoidance behaviour (mean intermediate = 3.71 mean post = 4.27  $t(113) = -7.78 \ p \le 0.001$ ), controllability (mean intermediate = 2.89 mean post = 2.39  $t(113) = 0.50 \ p = 0.31$ ) and benefits (mean intermediate = 3.41 mean post = 2.99  $t(113) = 0.43 \ p = 0.34$ )

did not support or were contradictory to the hypothesis, too. The hypothesis was tested one-sided.

Most of the results did not support or were contradictory to the hypotheses. The means of the constructs supporting a positive view of nanotechnology were lower at the post than at the pre measure. The means of the constructs supporting a negative view of nanotechnology were higher at the post than at the pre measure. That implies that all respondents of subgroup 1 and 3 tended to have a more negative perception of nanotechnology the more information they got. The values of *t* and the level of significance of the differences are shown in table 13.

Table 13

Value of t and Level of Significance for the Difference Score of the Difference Scores of the Pre Measure – Intermediate Measure and Intermediate Measure – Post Measure

Construct	Low End Group		High	High End Group	
	t	р	t	р	
Attitude	0.99	0.17	8.74	≤ 0.001	
Risk-Perception	-9.48	$\leq 0.001$	-2.86	$\leq 0.001$	
Dread	-5.06	$\leq 0.001$	-1.04	.04	
Trust in Governmental Control	2.52	.01	10.64	$\leq 0.001$	
Avoidance Behaviour	-7.78	$\leq 0.001$	-1.25	.11	
Controllability	0.50	.31	5.57	$\leq 0.001$	
Benefits	0.43	.34	3.11	$\leq 0.001$	

### Testing Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis 4 was: "With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at the middle of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction that implies a negative perception of nanotechnology." For testing this hypothesis, the same subgrouping was used as for testing Hypothesis 3. The second group was of interest here. How the sample was divided for each construct is shown in table 14.

#### Table 14

Percentage of Respondents Assigned to Subgroup 1, Subgroup 2 and Subgroup 3 per Construct

Construct	Subgroup 1 (%)	Subgroup 2 (%)	Subgroup 3 (%)
Attitude	11.4	47.4	41.2
Risk-Perception	19.3	57.0	23.7
Dread	13.2	41.2	45.6
Trust in Governmental	19.3	24.6	56.1
Control			
Avoidance Behaviour	29.8	43.0	27.2
Controllability	22.8	57.9	19.3
Benefits	6.1	70.2	23.7

Attitude  $(t(113) = 6.43 \ p \le 0.001)$ , trust in governmental control  $(t(113) = 3.75 \ p \le 0.001)$  and the perceived controllability  $(t(113) = 6.65 \ p \le 0.001)$  were significant lower at the end for group two, which supports Hypothesis 4. The risk-perception  $(t(113) = -10.03 \ p \le 0.001)$ , dread  $(t(113) = -5.71 \ p \le 0.001)$  and avoidance behaviour  $(t(113) = -7.06 \ p \le 0.001)$  of the second group was significant higher at the end which also supports H4. For the construct of benefits, no

significant effect was measured (t(113) = 2.26 p = 0.02). The hypothesis was tested one-sided.

Most of the results are supporting the hypothesis, but if the results of testing H3 are also taken into account, it is much more likely that all respondents are scoring more negative, independent of the pre measure score. The t value and the level of significance for the difference scores are shown in table 15.

#### Table 15

Value of t and Level of Significance for the Difference between the Difference

Scores

Middle Scored Group					
<i>M</i> of M2	<i>M</i> of M3	t	р		
3.66	3.21	6.43	≤ 0.001		
4.87	5.17	-10.93	≤ 0.001		
4.82	5.14	-5.71	$\leq 0.001$		
3.46	2.83	3.75	$\leq 0.001$		
3.09	476	-7.06	$\leq 0.001$		
4.62	2.86	6.65	$\leq 0.001$		
4.14	4.12	2.26	0.02		
	<i>M</i> of M2 3.66 4.87 4.82 3.46 3.09 4.62 4.14	Middle Scor           M of M2         M of M3           3.66         3.21           4.87         5.17           4.82         5.14           3.46         2.83           3.09         476           4.62         2.86           4.14         4.12	Middle Scored Group           M of M2         M of M3         t           3.66         3.21         6.43           4.87         5.17         -10.93           4.82         5.14         -5.71           3.46         2.83         3.75           3.09         476         -7.06           4.62         2.86         6.65           4.14         4.12         2.26		

## Discussion and Conclusion

This research tried to get more insight in the relationship between the amount of information provided and perception of nanotechnology. Therefore some of the major theories in the field of risk-perception were used to investigate the research Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 48

questions. For example the psychological paradigm and the RISP-model. Additionally, the relationship between risk-perception and attitude was explored. Three informational texts about nanotechnology were used as information source for the respondents.

### Discussion of the Results

### Comparability of Texts and Randomization of Groups.

The whole research is based on two assumptions. First, the comparability of the texts and second the randomization of the groups. The three different groups (A, B and C) are controlled for equality in scores of the textual factors at the pre measure. The groups did not differ in all five scores of the textual factors. That means that the texts are perceived as equal and are comparable with each other. This is the most important point, because it assures that the independent variable is the amount of information and not the content of information.

The groups did not differ significantly in age and gender. Also, they did not differ in score of all dependent variable at the pre measure. Another important factor is thus verified, the randomization of the groups. The base of the research is thus confirmed, the randomization of the groups and the comparability of the texts.

#### Perception of Nanotechnology and the Influence of Information Amount.

Additionally to the other two assumptions on which this study is based comes another. That is hypotheses 1: *The amount of information has a significant effect on the dependent variables.* The other hypothesis build on the first one and would be useless if no effect at all would be found. The effect of the amount of information was confirmed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> hypothesis: "*The influence of information on the dependent* 

*variables declines with increasing amount of information.* " was also confirmed. The results of this analysis are fitting perfectly to the RISP and HSM model mentioned. People may perceive a degree of information sufficiency after reading and systematic processing of the first text. The other two texts were processed on a heuristic like manner and thus not as deep as the first information. That might be the reason why the measured effect declines after the first text. In contrast to H1 and H2,the 3<sup>rd</sup> hypothesis: "*With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at the high or the low end of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction of the score.*" has been rejected.

It rather looked like that the score that was measured before the respondents had read a text had no predictive value for the scores that were measured after the respondents had read all three texts. Two subgroups (low pre-score, high pre-score) scored in a way that expressed a more negative view of nanotechnology after getting information. This finding was supported by the results of testing hypothesis 4: "With increasing number of texts read, the score of a respondent who scored at the middle of a dependent variable before reading a text, deepens into the direction that implies a negative perception of nanotechnology.". The second subgroup (middle pre-score) had also the tendency to look more negative towards nanotechnology after reading all three texts. This finding is also supported by the research of Brown (2014). In this research the participants had also a more negative view on nanotechnology after getting information. The pessimistic view towards nanotechnology, as found by Vandermore et al. (2011) can be thus confirmed. But the results were inconsistent with the findings of Fischer et al. (2012). In that study no change in the average score of attitude was found. Also application of the confirmation bias can't be confirmed. If respondents were influenced for the most Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 50

[The Amount of Information Influences the Perception of Nanotechnology] part by the confirmation bias, different tendencies in group score as in the study of Fischer et al (2012), should be registered.

In this study, the results indicated that people tend to have a negative perception of nanotechnology the more information they got. This might be the case because nanotechnology is a much unknown and not well-understood field of science. Additionally the negative consequences are mostly unknown but got the potential to be very dangerous. If both factors are put together, people tend to have a high risk perception. This result fits perfectly into the psychometric paradigm of Slovic (1985). High unknown technology with high dread is perceived as very risky. This research suggest that this is also true for cases in which the high dread is only a possibility but not a proven fact.

The correlation matrixes indicated a negative relationship between attitude and risk-perception and attitude and avoidance behaviour. That means if someone has a low (negative) attitude towards nanotechnology, he has a high risk-perception and avoidance behaviour. There was also a relationship between risk-perception and dread and risk-perception and avoidance behaviour indicated. Thus if an individual has a high risk-perception he also perceived the dread as high. Therefore he also has a high degree of avoidance behaviour. The strong correlation between risk-perception and dread fits perfectly into the psychological paradigm of Slovic et al. (1985).

## Generalizability.

It is important to notice that all of the respondents of this study were between 17 and 36. Most of the participants were between 17 and 24. All of them were Dutch and German students. Thus, age, nationality and degree of education and therefore

social-economic status are limiting the generalizability of the research results. On the other hand, the research gives much information about the thoughts and perception of nanotechnology in food products of young Dutch and German academicians.

## Strong Points of the Study.

A strong point of the study was the equalization of the three informational texts. Because all of them were constructed with the same components, comparability was ensured. The equality of the text were reflected in the research, showing no group differences within the textual factors. Another strong point is that the research gives new insight into the field of risk-perception in the context of an unknown field of science. By now some research regarding this issue is already done, but the findings are very contradictory so that new researches in this field can help solving some contradictions. The research in form of an online survey can be seen as a good point, because of its flexibility. It was easy to reach enough respondents. They could easily fill in the questionnaire from home and they self could determine the time to complete the survey. The research tool was also a strong point in the borders of the study. It was not possible for the respondents to go backwards to check and/or adjust already answered question. The respondents were also forced to answer all questions, which probably lead to less willingly or unwillingly unfilled gaps in the questionnaire. The last strong point mentioned is the scaling used in the survey. By using a 7-point Likert scale instead of 5-point one, central tendency was reduced and the measured effects were more obvious.

Drawbacks of the Study and Implications for Further Research.

The use of an online survey was also a drawback. Some respondents completed the survey very fast (<5 minutes) which made their scores less reliable. A reason might be that the same questionnaire was used three times and that the respondents got bored. Another reason might be the online survey itself. If the respondents were watched while filling in the questionnaire, they might have had a higher feeling of responsibility to fill in the survey conscientious. Another drawback was the sample size and constellation. A total of 114 respondents was sufficient but a total of 240 respondents is proposed for a follow-up research. The constellation of the sample could also been improved by selecting the sample more heterogenic in terms of age, educational background and SES. That would lead to a higher degree of generalizability of the study results.

#### Implications for the Practice.

The results of this research can be used to be more cautious when informing people over new technologies. The first information given might have the biggest impact on the perception of a new technology. People are very cautious if the technology and the dreads of the technology are both unknown and they are very sensitive to negative information. Therefore it is important that the chosen information strategy uses a balanced and realistic information style in the first place. People might be very sensitive to speculation over possible risks, even if they are not very likely. The informing institutions should be aware that following information does not have the same impact as the first information the public received.

#### Conclusion.

The drawbacks mentioned by Brown (2014) were successfully changed. It was very important to control for comparability and equality of the used texts. Due to this, the measured textual factors confirmed the perceived equality and no difference of textual factors between the groups was measured. By using comparable components for building the informational text, it was ascertained that the amount of information is the independent variable. The second thing that was adjusted was the amount of negative information within the texts. Maybe the high amount of negative information. The adjustment of the Likert scale was very useful. The measured effect was so much more noticeable and the effect of central tendency could be avoided. The change of the online platform was also a good adjustment as the respondents could not adjust their answers. Additionally it was possible to download the results as SPSS data format, which was a very efficient way of data transformation.

This research gave insight into the relationship between the amount of information and the perception of nanotechnology. In the first place it showed the amount of information has an effect on the perception of nanotechnology at all. The more information a respondent got the extremer his opinion was, in this case, negative. The effect declines with the amount of information given, thus after reading one text the effect was bigger than after reading text two and three. Furthermore, the study showed that the psychological paradigm of Slovic et al. (1985) is still valid nowadays. Even if it's from 1985, the negative reaction of the public to information about nanotechnology could have been predicted with the two dimensions of "unknown risk" and "dread" of the psychological paradigm.

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Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 56

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## Appendix

Appendix A

#### Text A:

Ingrediënten

Door nanotechnologie is het mogelijk voedsel gezonder te maken. Je kan bijvoorbeeld ongezonde ingrediënten vervangen door gezonde ingrediënten. Denk aan een mayonaise, die dezelfde smaak heeft als een "echte" maar grotendeels uit water bestaat en zo heel veel minder aan ongezonde ingrediënten bevat. Bovendien kunnen de textuur en de consistentie van zulke producten ook worden veranderd en verbeterd. Het is dus mogelijk al bestaande producten gezonder te maken zonder dat er verschil in textuur, consistentie en vooral smaak is. Producten gezonder maken kan ook met een andere methode binnen de nanotechnologie. Bij deze methode wordt gebruik gemaakt van nanocapsules. Deze nanocapsules kunnen aan melk en vlees producten worden toegevoegd. Binnen deze capsules zijn belangrijke stoffen zoals Vitamine A en B, omega 3 en co-enzym Q 10 ingesloten. De nanocapsules worden naar de juiste locatie in het lichaam gestuurd en daar worden de stoffen vrijgelaten. Hierdoor zijn de producten ef-

De nieuwe technologie brengt ook risico's met zich mee. Er bestaat de mogelijkheid dat de nanodeeltjes, omdat ze zo erg klein zijn, belangrijke lichaamsbarrières door gaan, zoals de bloed-hersenen barrière. Dit kan gevaarlijk zijn omdat deze barrières belangrijke afweerfuncties in ons lichaam vervullen. Er wordt gevreesd dat de nanodeeltjes door hun sterk bindend vermogen zich aan organen, zoals de long en de nier,

gaan verrijken. Dit zou leiden tot kanker en bloedstolsels. Een onderzoek heeft bijvoorbeeld aangetoond dat carbon-nanodeeltjes ernstige hersenschade bij dieren kunnen veroorzaken. Kunstmatige nanodeeltjes kunnen voor problemen binnen het lichaam zorgen en het immuunsysteem aantasten. De overheid heeft geen enkele wet die het gebruiken van nanotechnologie beperkt of controleert. Producenten zijn daarom ook niet verplicht producten waarin nanotechnologie gebruikt is te labelen. Dit maakt het onmogelijk voor de consument zich van het eten van voedingsmiddelen met nanotechnologie bewust te zijn.

#### Text B:

#### Voedsel verpakking

De verpakking van voedingsmiddelen is een groot en belangrijk veld van het toepassen van nanotechnologie. Met behulp van nanotechnologie is het mogelijk "slimme" verpakkingen te produceren. Deze verpakkingen kunnen antibacteriële substanties, antioxidatiemiddelen en smaak- en reukstoffen aan het voedsel binnen de verpakking afgeven en het zo waardevoller maken. Dit kan het product langer houdbaar maken en de smaak of reuk verbeteren. Verder kan een "slimme" verpakking de toestand van het voedsel of van de verpakking registreren en dit door bijvoorbeeld een kleurverandering aangeven. Dit kunnen eenvoudige toestanden zijn zoals de temperatuur maar ook complexere toestanden zoals aanwezigheid van bacteriën. Een derde voorbeeld van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakking heeft betrekking op het milieu. Een alternatief voor het gebruiken van plastic en andere kunststoffen zijn bio-kunststoffen. Deze bio-kunststoffen hebben helaas een lage stabiliteit. Met nanotechnologie kan dit Bachelor Thesis | J.T. Seifert 60 [The Amount of Information Influences the Perception of Nanotechnology] worden verbeterd. Het is mogelijk om onstabiele bio-kunststoffen met nanotechnologie te vermengen en ze hierdoor stabieler te maken. Het resultaat is een kunststof die stabiel en biologisch afbreekbaar is.

De toevoeging van nanodeeltjes kan ook gevaarlijk zijn. Tot nu toe is het nog niet duidelijk wat er met nanodeeltjes gebeurt als ze in het menselijke lichaam terecht komen. Onderzoek heeft getoond dat nanodeeltjes mogelijk een bijdrage leveren aan het ontstaan van kanker, DNA-mutaties en zelf tot celdood. Ander onderzoek laat zien dat bepaalde nanodeeltjes zware beschadigingen aan organen en bloedarmoede kunnen veroorzaken. De lange termijn effecten op de mens zijn helemaal onbekend. Ondanks de risico's, hanteert de overheid geen veiligheidsstandaarden bij het gebruik van nanotechnologie. Bovendien weten de verantwoordelijke instanties niet precies waar nanotechnologie gebruikt wordt en waar niet. Dit maakt het voor de consument onmogelijk informatie over de toepassing van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen in te winnen.

#### Text C:

#### Landbouw en hygiëne

Elk deel van het voedingsproductieproces biedt een mogelijkheid voor gebruik van nanotechnologie. Dus ook aan het begin bij het verbouwen van voedingsmiddelen. In de landbouwsector wordt gebruik gemaakt van pesticiden op nano- grootte. Deze nanopesticiden zijn effectiever dan de grotere pesticiden die doorgaans worden gebruikt. Deze nieuwe nanopesticiden worden onder bepaalde omstandigheden geactiveerd: warmte, zonlicht of in een insectenmaag. Naast nanopesticiden zijn er nog andere

voorbeelden van nanotechnologie in de landbouw. Met een sensor die gemaakt is met nanotechnologie is het mogelijk de ontwikkeling van planten te observeren. Deze sensoren kunnen de groei van de plant observeren en ziektes opsporen die gevaarlijk zijn voor de plant. Niet alleen bij het verbouwen van voedingsmiddelen wordt nanotechnologie gebruikt. Ook bij de opslag van levensmiddelen, kan met hulp van nanotechnologie de hygiëne worden bevorderd. De firma Samsung heeft al diverse koelkasten in het assortiment met een zilver- nanodeeltjes laag. Dit heeft een antibiotisch effect en beperkt nare geurtjes.

Met nieuwe mogelijkheden komen ook altijd nieuwe risico's. Er wordt gewaarschuwd voor nieuwe risico's voor de mens en voor het milieu met betrekking tot gifstoffen. Omdat de verhouding tussen oppervlakte en volume van een nanodeeltje veel groter is dan deze verhouding bij een grotere pesticide, zijn de nanodeeltjes veel giftiger. Bij een onderzoek met dieren werden problemen met voortplanting aangetoond. Omdat de wetenschap van nanotechnologie zo nieuw is, is er erg weinig bekend over de echte risico's voor de mens. Bedrijven die van nanotechnologie gebruik maken zijn niet door de overheid verplicht bepaalde veiligheidstesten te doorlopen voordat hun producten op de markt komt. Een bedrijf hoeft ook niet aan te geven dat ze nanotechnologie gebruiken, daardoor is het voor de consument onmogelijk informatie te krijgen over het gebruiken van nanotechnologie bij de betrokkenen bedrijven.

# Appendix B

# Table 16

# Negative Information Components per Text

Tekst	Tekst A:	Tekst B: Voedsel	Tekst C:
	Ingrediënten	Verpakking	Landbouw en
			hygiëne
Vrees 1	Er bestaat de	Tot nu is nog niet	. Het wordt
	mogelijkheid dat de	duidelijk wat met de	gewaarschuwd
	nanodeeltjes omdat	nanodeeltjes gebeurt	voor nieuwe
	ze zo erg klein zijn,	als ze in de	toxologische
	importante	menselijke lichaam	risico's voor de
	lichaamsbarrières	binnenkomen.	mens en voor het
	kunnen passeren,		milieu.
	zoals de bloed-		
	hersenen barrière		
	en de placenta. Dit		
	kan gevaarlijk zijn		
	omdat deze		
	barrières		
	belangrijke afweer		
	functies in ons		
	lichaam vervullen.		

Vrees 2	Het wordt gevreesd	Vooronderzoek heeft	Omdat de
	dat de nanodeeltjes	getoond dat	oppervlakte in
	zelfs als zij niet	nanoparticelen tot	relatie tot het
	deze belangrijke	oxidatieve stress	volumen van zo
	barrières kunnen	kunnen voeren. Dit	een nanopartikel
	passeren, door hun	kan vrije radicale	veel groter is dan
	sterk bindend	vrijzetten die een	de relatie bij een
	vermogen zich aan	bijdraag leveren aan	grotere partikel,
	organen zoals de	het ontstaan van	zijn de
	long en de nier	kanker, DNA-	nanopartikels
	gaan verrijken en	mutaties en zelf tot	veel reactiever en
	zo leiden tot kanker	celdood.	dus ook
	en bloedstolsels.		toxologischer.
			Dit kan ook het
			geval zijn bij het
			gebruiken van
			agrochemicaliën
Vrees 3	Een onderzoek	Door een ander in-	. Bij een
	heeft bijvoorbeeld	vivo experiment is	onderzoek met
	aangetoond dat	duidelijk geworden	dieren worden
	carbonnanodeeltjes	dat bepaalde	problemen met
	ernstige	nanodeeltjes zwaare	voortplanting
	hersenschaden bij	beschadigingen van	aangetoond.
		organen en bloed	

	dieren kunnen	armoede veroorzaken	
	veroorzaken.	kunnen	
Vrees 4	Kunstmatige	De effecten op de	Omdat de
	nanodeeltjes	mens op lange	wetenschap van
	bestaan in de	termijn zijn helemaal	nanotechnologie
	natuur in deze form	onbekend.	zo nieuw is, is er
	niet. Daarom		erg weinig
	kunnen zij tot		bekend over de
	problemen binnen		echten risico's.
	de lichaam en met		
	het lichamelijke		
	immuunsysteem		
	voeren.		
Vertrouwen	De overheid heeft	Ondanks de risico's	Bedrijven die van
	geen enkel wet	zijn er geen	nanotechnologie
	bepaald die het	veiligheidsstandaards	gebruik maken
	gebruiken van	bij het gebruik van	zijn niet door de
	nanotechnologie	nanotechnologie door	overheid
	beperkt of	de overheid verplicht	verplicht
	controleert.	worden gemaakt.	bepaalde
			veiligheidstesten
			te doorlopen

voordat hun

			product om de
			markt komt.
Beheersbaarheid	Produceten zijn	Bovendien weten	Er bestaat ook
	daarom ook niet	zelfs	geen plicht aan te
	verplicht producten	verantwoordelijke	geven dat een
	waarin	instanties niet waar	bedrijf
	nanotechnologie	nanotechnologie	nanotechnologie
	gebruikt is te	gebruikt word en	gebruikt,
	kenmerken. Dit	waar niet. Dit maakt	daardoor is het
	maakt het	het onmogelijk voor	voor de
	onmogelijk voor de	de consument zich	consument
	consument zich	over de	onmogelijk zich
	over het	gebruiksgebieden	over het
	consumeren van	van	gebruiken van
	met	voedingsmiddelen	nanotechnologie
	nanotechnologie	die met	van betrokkenen
	verandereden	nanotechnologie	bedrijven te
	voedingsmiddelen	veranderd zijn te	informeren.
	bewust te zijn.	informeren.	

# Table 17

# Positive Information Components per Text

Tekst	Tekst A:	Tekst B: Voedsel	Tekst C: Landbouw
	Ingredienten	verpakking	en hygiëne
Voordeel 1	Door	Met behulp van	Dus ook helemaal
	nanotechnologie is	nanotechnologie is	aan het begin bij het
	het mogelijk de	het mogelijk	aanbouwen van
	waarde van	zogenoemde	voedingsmiddelen.
	voedsel te	"slimme"	In de sector van
	verhogen door	verpakkingen te	landbouw wordt
	ongezonde	produceren. Deze	gebruikt gemaakt
	ingrediënten met	verpakkingen kunnen	van
	gezonde of	antibacteriële	agrochemicaliën op
	neutrale	substanties,	nano grootte. Dit
	ingrediënten te	antioxidatiemiddelen	kunnen bijvoorbeeld
	vervangen. Zo kan	en smaak- en	pesticides zijn die
	bijvoorbeeld een	reukstoffen aan het	effectiever zijn dan
	mayonaise	voedsel binnen de	grotere deeltjes. Een
	geproduceerd	verpakking af geven	soort van deze
	worden, die het	en het zo	nieuwe pesticides
	zelfde smaak heeft	waardevoller maken.	word alleen onder
	als een "echte"	Dit kan het product	bepaalde
	maar grotendeels	langer houdbaar	omstandigheden

	uit water bestaat en	maken en de smaak	geactiveerd:
	zo heel veel minder	of reuk verbeteren.	warmte, zonlicht of
	aan ongezonde		in de omgeving van
			···· •• • • ···· • • · ··· • • • •
	ingredienten bevat.		een insectenmagen.
Voordeel 2	Bovendien kunnen	Verder is een	Buiten de
	ook de textuur en	"slimme" verpakking	agrochemicaliën is
	de consistentie van	in de staat om interne	er nog een andere
	zulk producten	en externe toestand	gebruiksgebied van
	worden verandert	van het voedsel of	nanotechnologie
	en verbeterd. Het is	van de verpakking te	met betrekking tot
	dus mogelijk al	registreren en	de landbouw. Door
	bestaande	bijvoorbeeld door	middel van sensor
	producten na te	een verandering in	die gegrond is op
	doen en deze	kleur aan te tonen.	nano- en nano-
	gezonder te maken	Dit kunnen	biotechnologie, is
	zonder dat	eenvoudige	het mogelijk de
	onderscheid in	toestanden zijn zoals	ontwikkeling van
	textuur,	de temperatuur maar	planten de
	consistentie en	ook complexere	observeren. Deze
	vooral smaak kan	toestanden zoals	sensoren kunnen het
	worden vast	aanwezigheid van	groei van de plant
	gesteld.	bacteriën.	observeren maar
			ook ziektes

opsporen die

gevaarlijk voor de

			plant kunnen zijn.
Voordeel 3	De producten	Een derde voorbeeld	Het is niet alleen de
	gezonder te maken	van een	aanbouw van
	gaat ook met	gebruiksgebied van	voedingsmiddelen
	behulp van een	nanotechnologie in	waar
	andere methode	voedselverpakking	nanotechnologie
	binnen de	heeft betrekking tot	toepassing gaat
	nanotechnologie.	het milieu. Een	vinden, ook een
	Bij deze methode	alternatief voor het	volgende stap in de
	wordt gebruik	gebruiken van plastic	voedingsproductie
	gemaakt van	een andere	ketting, de opslag
	zogenoemde	kunststoffen waar	van levensmiddelen,
	nanocapsules.	aardolie ten	kan met hulp van
	Deze nanocapsules	grondslag ligt zijn	nanotechnologie de
	kunnen melk een	bio kunststoffen.	hygiëne worden
	vlees producten	Deze bio	bevorderd. De firma
	worden	kunststoffen hebben	Samsung
	toegevoegd.	helaas een lage	bijvoorbeeld heeft
	Binnen deze	stabiliteit. Dit zou	al diverse
	capsules zijn	met nanotechnologie	koelkasten in het
	belangrijke stoffen	kunnen worden	sortiment die met
	zoals Vitamine A	voorkomen. Het zou	een zilver-
	en B, omega 3 en	mogelijk zijn om	nanopartikels laag

co-enzym Q 10	onstabiele bio	uitgerust zijn. Die
ingesloten. Binnen	kunststoffen met	zou een antibiotisch
de nano capsules	nanotechnologie te	een reuk
worden de stoffen	vermengen en ze	belemmerend effect
na de juiste locatie	daardoor stabieler te	hebben.
in het lichaam	gaan maken. Dus een	
gestuurd en aan dit	kunststof te	
locatie vrijgezet.	produceren die	
Daardoor zouden	stabiele en biologisch	
de producten	afbouw baar is.	
effectiever kunnen		
worden verwerkt.		

Appendix C

Whole Survey as Example of Group 1.

5.1.2015

Online Survey Software | Qualtrics Survey Solutions

Fijn dat je mee wilt werken aan dit onderzoek. Dit is een bachelor opdracht binnen de vakgroep Psychologie van Conflict, Risico en Veiligheid van de Universiteit Twente. In dit onderzoek gaat het over hoe mensen denken over het gebruik van nanotechnologie in voedingsmiddelen en verpakkingen. We willen je graag hierover een aantal vragen stellen.

Jij zal straks drie teksten over het gebruik van nanotechnologie in voedingsmiddelen en verpakkingen lezen en een aantal vragen hierover invullen. Aan het begin vul je kort wat vragen in. Daarna krijg je de eerste tekst te lezen waarover je een aantal vragen zal beantwoorden. Hierna krijg je twee teksten achter elkaar te lezen en een aantal afsluitende vragen. Het deelnemen aan dit onderzoek inclusief het lezen van de teksten zal in het geheel ongeveer 30 min duren.

Alvast bedankt voor je medewerking.

>>

1/1

5.1.2015

Online Survey Software | Qualtrics Survey Solutions

Ten eerste willen we je vragen de volgende punten door te lezen.

1. De deelname aan dit onderzoek is geheel vrijwillig. Jij kunt op elk moment van dit onderzoek jouw deelname zonder een reden te hoeven geven stoppen.

2. Het onderzoek is anoniem. Dat betekent dat jouw antwoorden niet naar jou terug herleid kunnen worden.

3. Als je verdere vragen hebt kun jij deze tijdens of na het experiment per mail aan de experimentleider sturen.

Heb je bovenstaande punten begrepen?

🔘 Ja

🔘 Nee

Ga je met bovenstaande punten akkoord?

🔘 Ja

🔘 Nee

>>

https://jfe.qualtrics.com/preview/SV\_3eoQsg9Zti55b1P
es jouw geslacht:	
T	
/at is je leeftijd?	
/at is je nationaliteit?	
) Nederlands	
Duits	
) Anders, namelijk	
en je student?	
T	
an welke universiteit studeer je?	
) Universiteit Twente	
Anders, namelijk:	

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## Introductie nanotechnologie

Nanotechnologie is een nieuw veld binnen de wetenschap. Zoals de naam al zegt werkt deze wetenschap op de schaal van nanometer. Dit is één miljoenste van een meter. Met nanotechnologie kunnen stoffen op moleculair of atomair niveau gewijzigd worden om het zo nieuwe eigenschappen te geven. Nanotechnologie is in meer of mindere mate al te vinden in onze voedingsmiddelen of in de verpakkingen hiervan. Dit kan ons eten bijvoorbeeld langer houdbaar maken, de opname van vitaminen verbeteren, of voor een betere afweer tegen ziektekiemen zorgen. Over de lange termijn effecten van het gebruik van nanotechnologie is nog weinig bekend.

Dit onderzoek gaat het over de toepassing van nanotechnologie in de voedselindustrie. Je krijgt straks informatie over waar en hoe nanotechnologie in het kader van voeding gebruikt kan worden en welke mogelijkheden en risico's hiermee gepaard gaan. Wij zijn geïnteresseerd in hoe jij tegen deze nieuwe technologie aankijkt.

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Wat vind je van het toepassen van nanotechnologie in voeding?

Kies het punt dat het meest jouw mening weergeeft

Negatief	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0	$\circ$	Positief
Slecht	0	0	$\bigcirc$	0	0	0	$\circ$	Goed
Nadelig	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Voordelig

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Hoe denk je over nanotechnologie in voeding en verpakkingen?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk vind dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor de houdbaarheid van voedingswaren.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ik vrees de negatieve gevolgen van het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vetrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten gevaarlijk zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vrees de mogelijke negatieve gevolgen van voedselverpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Als ik weet dat er nanotechnologie is gebruikt in een voedingsmiddel, kies ik een ander product.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten slecht zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedingsmiddelen ervoor kan zorgen dat ik gezonder eet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Hoe denk je over nanotechnologie in voeding en verpakkingen?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk denk dat er aan voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veel risico's kleven.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vertrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedselverpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk ben geneigd een alternatief product te kopen, als mijn gebruikelijke merk nano- ingrediënten gaat gebruiken	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat ik liever geen voedingsmiddelen koop die nanotechnologie bevatten.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de risico's bij het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten goed beheersbaar.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind dat het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de risico's bij het gebruik van verpakkingen die nanotechnolgie bevatten goed beheersbaar.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veel nadelen hebben.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Lees de onderstaande tekst goed door.

### Ingrediënten

Door nanotechnologie is het mogelijk voedsel gezonder te maken. Je kan bijvoorbeeld ongezonde ingrediënten vervangen door gezonde ingrediënten. Denk aan een mayonaise, die dezelfde smaak heeft als een "echte" maar grotendeels uit water bestaat en zo heel veel minder aan ongezonde ingrediënten bevat. Bovendien kunnen de textuur en de consistentie van zulke producten ook worden veranderd en verbeterd. Het is dus mogelijk al bestaande producten gezonder te maken zonder dat er verschil in textuur, consistentie en vooral smaak is. Producten gezonder maken kan ook met een andere methode binnen de nanotechnologie. Bij deze methode wordt gebruik gemaakt van nanocapsules. Deze nanocapsules kunnen aan melk en vlees producten worden toegevoegd. Binnen deze capsules zijn belangrijke stoffen zoals Vitamine A en B, omega 3 en co-enzym Q 10 ingesloten. De nanocapsules worden naar de juiste locatie in het lichaam gestuurd en daar worden de stoffen vrijgelaten. Hierdoor zijn de producten effectiever.

De nieuwe technologie brengt ook risico's met zich mee. Er bestaat de mogelijkheid dat de nanodeeltjes, omdat ze zo erg klein zijn, belangrijke lichaamsbarrières door gaan, zoals de bloedhersenen barrière. Dit kan gevaarlijk zijn omdat deze barrières belangrijke afweerfuncties in ons lichaam vervullen. Er wordt gevreesd dat de nanodeeltjes door hun sterk bindend vermogen zich aan organen, zoals de long en de nier, gaan verrijken. Dit zou leiden tot kanker en bloedstolsels. Een onderzoek heeft bijvoorbeeld aangetoond dat carbon-nanodeeltjes ernstige hersenschade bij dieren kunnen veroorzaken. Kunstmatige nanodeeltjes kunnen voor problemen binnen het lichaam zorgen en het immuunsysteem aantasten. De overheid heeft geen enkele wet die het gebruiken van nanotechnologie beperkt of controleert. Producenten zijn daarom ook niet verplicht producten waarin nanotechnologie gebruikt is te labelen. Dit maakt het onmogelijk voor de consument zich van het eten van voedingsmiddelen met nanotechnologie bewust te zijn.

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Wat vind je van de informatie in de tekst?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk vind de informatie uit de tekst nauwkeurig.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de informatie uit de tekst betrouwbaar.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de informatie uit de tekst eenzijdig.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de informatie uit de tekst duidelijk.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de informatie uit de tekst geloofwaardig.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Je hebt net een tekst over een toepassing van nanotechnologie gelezen.

Wat vind je van het toepassen van nanotechnologie in voeding?

Kies het punt dat het meest jouw mening weergeeft

Negatief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Positief
Slecht	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Goed
Nadelig	0	0	0	0	$\circ$	0	0	Voordelig

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Hoe denk je nu over nanotechnologie?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk vind dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor de houdbaarheid van voedingswaren.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vrees de negatieve gevolgen van het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vetrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten gevaarlijk zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vrees de mogelijke negatieve gevolgen van voedselverpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Als ik weet dat er nanotechnologie is gebruikt in een voedingsmiddel, kies ik een ander product.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten slecht zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedingsmiddelen ervoor kan zorgen dat ik gezonder eet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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### Hoe denk je nu over nanotechnologie?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

1			Noch			
Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Heel erg oneens	Heel erg oneensOneensOO	Heel erg oneensEnigszins oneensOO	Heel erg oneens Oneens Enigszins enens, noch oneens enens, noch oneens   Image: Ima	Heel erg oneensEnigszins eensNoch eensEnigszins eensOO	Heel erg oneens Oneens Enigszins oneens eens, noch eens, noch eens Enigszins eens Eens   0 0 0 0 0 0 0   0 0 0 0 0 0 0   0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0   0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0   0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0   0

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Je krijgt nu twee teksten achter elkaar te lezen. Lees deze teksten goed door.

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#### Lees de onderstaande tekst goed door.

### Voedsel verpakking

De verpakking van voedingsmiddelen is een groot en belangrijk veld van het toepassen van nanotechnologie. Met behulp van nanotechnologie is het mogelijk "slimme" verpakkingen te produceren. Deze verpakkingen kunnen antibacteriële substanties, antioxidatiemiddelen en smaaken reukstoffen aan het voedsel binnen de verpakking afgeven en het zo waardevoller maken. Dit kan het product langer houdbaar maken en de smaak of reuk verbeteren. Verder kan een "slimme" verpakking de toestand van het voedsel of van de verpakking registreren en dit door bijvoorbeeld een kleurverandering aangeven. Dit kunnen eenvoudige toestanden zijn zoals de temperatuur maar ook complexere toestanden zoals aanwezigheid van bacteriën. Een derde voorbeeld van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakking heeft betrekking op het milieu. Een alternatief voor het gebruiken van plastic en andere kunststoffen zijn bio-kunststoffen. Deze bio-kunststoffen hebben helaas een lage stabiliteit. Met nanotechnologie kan dit worden verbeterd. Het is mogelijk om onstabiele bio-kunststoffen met nanotechnologie te vermengen en ze hierdoor stabieler te maken. Het resultaat is een kunststof die stabiel en biologisch afbreekbaar is.

De toevoeging van nanodeeltjes kan ook gevaarlijk zijn. Tot nu toe is het nog niet duidelijk wat er met nanodeeltjes gebeurt als ze in het menselijke lichaam terecht komen. Onderzoek heeft getoond dat nanodeeltjes mogelijk een bijdrage leveren aan het ontstaan van kanker, DNA-mutaties en zelf tot celdood. Ander onderzoek laat zien dat bepaalde nanodeeltjes zware beschadigingen aan organen en bloedarmoede kunnen veroorzaken. De lange termijn effecten op de mens zijn helemaal onbekend. Ondanks de risico's, hanteert de overheid geen veiligheidsstandaarden bij het gebruik van nanotechnologie. Bovendien weten de verantwoordelijke instanties niet precies waar nanotechnologie gebruikt wordt en waar niet. Dit maakt het voor de consument onmogelijk informatie over de toepassing van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen in te winnen.

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### Lees de onderstaande tekst goed door.

#### Landbouw en hygiëne

Elk deel van het voedingsproductieproces biedt een mogelijkheid voor gebruik van nanotechnologie. Dus ook aan het begin bij het verbouwen van voedingsmiddelen. In de landbouwsector wordt gebruik gemaakt van pesticiden op nano- grootte. Deze nanopesticiden zijn effectiever dan de grotere pesticiden die doorgaans worden gebruikt. Deze nieuwe nanopesticiden worden onder bepaalde omstandigheden geactiveerd: warmte, zonlicht of in een insectenmaag. Naast nanopesticiden zijn er nog andere voorbeelden van nanotechnologie in de landbouw. Met een sensor die gemaakt is met nanotechnologie is het mogelijk de ontwikkeling van planten te observeren. Deze sensoren kunnen de groei van de plant observeren en ziektes opsporen die gevaarlijk zijn voor de plant. Niet alleen bij het verbouwen van voedingsmiddelen wordt nanotechnologie gebruikt. Ook bij de opslag van levensmiddelen, kan met hulp van nanotechnologie de hygiëne worden bevorderd. De firma Samsung heeft al diverse koelkasten in het assortiment met een zilver- nanodeeltjes laag. Dit heeft een antibiotisch effect en beperkt nare geurtjes.

Met nieuwe mogelijkheden komen ook altijd nieuwe risico's. Er wordt gewaarschuwd voor nieuwe risico's voor de mens en voor het milieu met betrekking tot gifstoffen. Omdat de verhouding tussen oppervlakte en volume van een nanodeeltje veel groter is dan deze verhouding bij een grotere pesticide, zijn de nanodeeltjes veel giftiger. Bij een onderzoek met dieren werden problemen met voortplanting aangetoond. Omdat de wetenschap van nanotechnologie zo nieuw is, is er erg weinig bekend over de echte risico's voor de mens. Bedrijven die van nanotechnologie gebruik maken zijn niet door de overheid verplicht bepaalde veiligheidstesten te doorlopen voordat hun producten op de markt komt. Een bedrijf hoeft ook niet aan te geven dat ze nanotechnologie gebruiken, daardoor is het voor de consument onmogelijk informatie te krijgen over het gebruiken van nanotechnologie bij de betrokkenen bedrijven.

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Je hebt nu drie teksten over nanotechnologie in voeding en verpakkingen gelezen, wat denk je nu over nanotechnologie?

Kies het punt dat het meest jouw mening weergeeft

Wat vind je van het toepassen van nanotechnologie in voeding?

Negatief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Positief
Slecht	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Goed
Nadelig	0	0	0	0	0	$\circ$	0	Voordelig

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Je hebt nu drie teksten over nanotechnologie in voeding en verpakkingen gelezen, wat denk je nu over nanotechnologie?

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk vind dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedselverpakkingen positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor de houdbaarheid van voedingswaren.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vrees de negatieve gevolgen van het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vetrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten gevaarlijk zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vrees de mogelijke negatieve gevolgen van voedselverpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten op mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Als ik weet dat er nanotechnologie is gebruikt in een ∨oedingsmiddel, kies ik een ander product.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten slecht zijn voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat het gebruiken van nanotechnologie in voedingsmiddelen ervoor kan zorgen dat ik gezonder eet.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Je hebt nu drie teksten over nanotechnologie in voeding en verpakkingen gelezen, wat denk je nu over? nanotechnologie

Geef bij elk van de volgende stellingen aan in hoeverre deze bij je aansluit, variërend van "heel erg oneens" tot "heel erg eens".

COND .							
	Heel erg oneens	Oneens	Enigszins oneens	Noch eens, noch oneens	Enigszins eens	Eens	Heel erg eens
lk denk dat er aan voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veel risico's kleven.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vertrouw erop dat de overheid ervoor zorgt dat voedselverpakkingen die nanotechnologie bevatten veilig voor mij zijn.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk ben geneigd een alternatief product te kopen, als mijn gebruikelijke merk nano- ingrediënten gaat gebruiken	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat ik liever geen voedingsmiddelen koop die nanotechnologie bevatten.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de risico's bij het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten goed beheersbaar.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind dat het eten van voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten positieve gevolgen kan hebben voor mijn gezondheid.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk vind de risico's bij het gebruik van verpakkingen die nanotechnolgie bevatten goed beheersbaar.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
lk denk dat voedingsmiddelen die nanotechnologie bevatten veel nadelen hebben.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Je hebt het einde van de enquête bereikt. Als je via SONA hebt deel genomen aan dit onderzoek, worden jouw proefpersonenpunten automatisch bijgeschreven nadat je op volgende hebt geklikt.

Hartelijk bedankt voor jouw deelname!

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