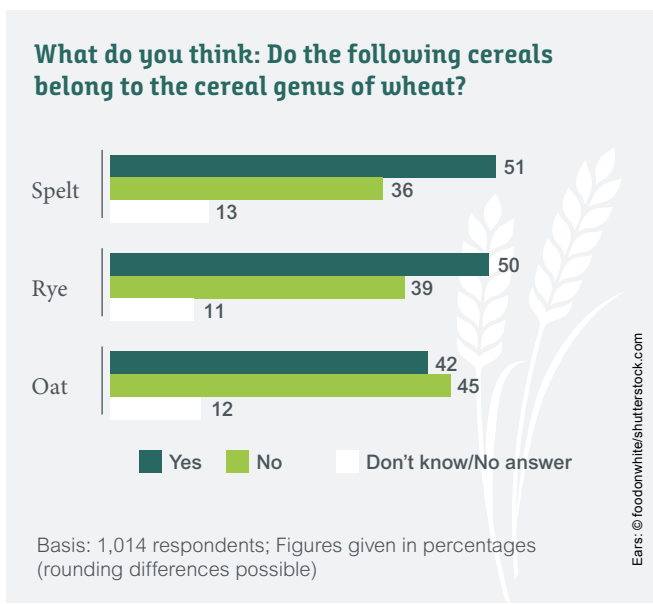


All wheat?

Are consumers aware that, unlike rye and oat, spelt is a type of wheat? The BfR has commissioned a representative survey to question the population's level of knowledge regarding cereal. The results indicate that knowledge of cereal classifications within the population is lacking. Half of respondents correctly state that spelt belongs to the cereal genus of wheat. However, the comparison with rye and oat shows that types of cereals are also assigned to wheat that do not biologically belong to this genus. The distinction is particularly important for people who are allergic to wheat. A look at the ingredients must tell them what they can and cannot eat. Currently, cereal containing gluten, such as wheat, must be listed and highlighted in the list of ingredients. Furthermore, EU guidelines on allergen labelling provide that spelt products should refer to the cereal type wheat.



What the population thinks

The effects of tattoo inks, antibiotic-resistant bacteria or nickel contact allergies – which health risks does the population perceive as particularly serious? For successful risk communication, it is important to obtain reliable information on risk perception in the population and the prioritisation of risks. A representative online survey by the BfR showed that antibiotic-resistant bacteria in particular are a central issue for the population. This issue takes the lead in the ranking of the 13 queried risks and one third of the respondents feel strongly threatened by it. A majority of respondents state that they would like to see more information about antibiotic-resistant bacteria. They predominantly see lamp oils and tattoo inks as less critical. This may be because consumers have more control over their contact with these risks.

More information:
www.bfr.bund.de > Publications: Perception and prioritising health risks – what does the population think? (in German)

Better informed

There is good news: about half of the population feels well or very well informed when it comes to consumer health protection, and this trend is on the increase. This is substantiated by the fifth evaluation on the awareness of BfR as a participant in consumer health protection in Germany. Every four years, the BfR surveys around 1,000 consumers and 500 experts from politics, science, media as well as business and consumer associations on consumer health protection topics and on the BfR's work. The evaluation also shows that the BfR is a well-known authority in consumer health protection. 82 percent of the experts are familiar with the name "BfR". When it comes to the population, this value has increased to just under 40 percent compared to 2016.