

Reasons for wasting food on the consumer level

Behaviour models and cross-country comparisons

Multi-stakeholder conference, Berlin

5/31/2017

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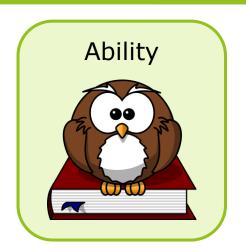




Agree or disagree?

The main reason for the high amount of in-home food waste is that consumers simply do not care enough

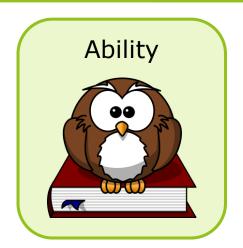






Motivation

- -Awareness
- -Attitude
- -Social norm





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Ability

- -Skills
- -Knowledge



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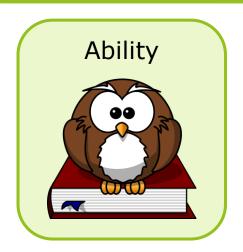
Ability

- -Skills
- -Knowledge

Opportunity

- -Time & schedule
- -Infrastructure
- -Technologies

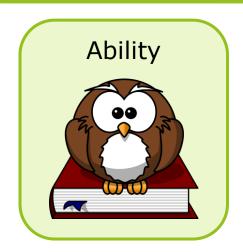














Consumer food management

Focus groups



6 per country N = 147













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Content of the focus groups

- Awareness
- Abilities & opportunities for waste prevention
- Motivation, social norm, conflicting priorities

Using: photos, cartoons, "perfect non-waster", ranking situations & products

Left-overs

Moulded fruit and vegetables





Feelings

- People feel bad (guilty, ashamed) when throwing away food
- People do not have strong feelings about wasting food

Feelings

Wasting is not acceptable to me at all. But if it happens from time to time then it happens. For me that doesn't count as wasting. It's just the attitude that is not acceptable to me at all.

Machine learning (German data)

- Words associated (>75%) with "food waste" include
 - "dispose anything"
 - "go(es) shop(ping)"
 - "never thought"
- Words associated (>50%) with "leftover" include
 - "shame"/"ashamed"
 - "Africa"
 - "embarrassed"



Food waste...

- Seen as both:
 - moral issue
 - financial issue

Priorities: conflicting goals



5/31/2017

Priorities

I believe that everybody cares but it's not like... but... as I have too many problems, I don't care now about the onions.

Children

- When people have children, this will
 - Make it almost impossible not to waste food (more food waste)
 - Be a stimulant to not waste food (less food waste)

Barriers to prevent food waste

- Kids' taste and appetite changes
- Unpredictable social and work life
- Large packaging sizes
- Shopping habits
- Equipment for storing food
- Income
- Quality of food sold



Interventions

- Consumers emphasize information and awareness campaigns to decrease food waste
- Consumers emphasize the use of practical tools and social norms to decrease food waste

Main conclusions

- Awareness is on the increase
- Role of "education"
 - Changes in parenting styles and lifestyle
- Competing goals
- Positive about intervention strategies
- Input for a cross-national survey