**Are nanopesticides a new class of emerging contaminants?**

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Research into nanotechnology applications for use in agriculture has become increasingly popular over the past decade, with a particular interest in developing novel nanoagrochemicals in the form of so-called “nanopesticides” and “nanofertilizers.” In view of the extensive body of scientific literature available on the topic, many authors have foreseen a revolution in current agricultural practices.

Due to their direct route of release, nanoagrochemicals may be regarded as particularly critical in terms of possible environmental impact, as they (would) represent the only intentional diffuse source of engineered nanoparticles in the environment. Nanotechnology has however a lot to offer to the agrochemical sector, particularly with regard to the possible reduction of the impact on human and environmental health.

Issues related to the differences in definitions and perceptions within different sectors should be discussed, as well as our current ability to assess new risks and benefits relative to conventional products. Viewpoints from the scientific, industrial and regulatory spheres are integrated to discuss what the future of nanoagrochemicals may look like and identify the directions for future research.