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Ph.D. Thesis review

Ing. Lukáš Pawera

Food, agrobiodiversity and diet: the nutritional ethnobiology of the Minangkabau and Mandailing Indigenous food systems in West Sumatra

In his thesis, Lukas Pawera compares nutritional adequacy, food diversity, perceived life quality, health status, nutrition quality, nutritional adequacy and other various socio-economical factors between two communities in West Sumatra. In an original holistic approach, he links the nutritional data with the plant biodiversity of the location. The work has been conducted in collaboration with a team of the Indonesian partner.

To me, the study was of a great interest and I highly appreciate the practical aspects of the work: mapping nutritional inadequacies in Ca, folate, Fe, Zn, protein, suggesting local food sources rich in these and practically promoting their intake.

The thesis is formally well structured, written, accompanied by many tables and charts. Additional photographs, figures and reprints of the handouts and booklets are attached as supplements to the thesis and demonstrate an important outcome of this research, the nutrition policy through a whole range of activities.

The introduction part is recent and provides the reader with a good background to nutrition, agricultural practices and social issues of the target groups in similar environments. Methods are reasonably described, based on standard approaches. The statistics is sound and appropriately used. The results are accompanied by many tables and graph charts that are easy to understand.

Major comments

I have certain reservation regarding the charts. When vertical error bars are used, they must be explained in the footnote, if standard deviation, S.E.M. or 95% CI has been used. Moreover, to me it sounds weird that they all have the same size. I don't think this has been used properly.

Minor comment

Please correct the minor error in p.86 "wild food plants was higher among Minangkabau women who listed on average 14 plants compared to 14 listed by Mandailing women on average"



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Was the data from the dietary recalls normalised to the %energy intake to correct for underreporting? How were the dietary recalls conducted? Was this as an interview? What was the difference between recall 1 and recall 2?

I recommend the thesis to proceed to the next step of submission and defence.

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