Introduction to Volume 13(2), World Nutrition

In 1977, I joined a bus-load of local people and assorted animals for several hours in northern Ghana. It’s a drought-ridden area; hardly what you’d expect to be a center of academic excellence. But in “Prevalence and predictors of appropriate complementary feeding practice among mothers with children 6–23 months in Northern Ghana” by Saaka et al., all three authors are from there. They find that 30% of children there were receiving adequate complementary feeding based on the use of an innovative three-variable indicator.

In this issue of the journal, we are also celebrating two other accomplishments. First, click on their PDF here and you’ll see a two-column professionally typeset research paper. WPHNA has approved a budget for us to professionally typeset our research papers. This costs $5/500 words plus $7/table or figure, so we will be able to do it only for the research papers. For those that cost more than $100 to typeset, authors will have to either shorten them or pay the difference.

However, as a new member benefit, if you have or will publish a literature review or a commentary, we will subsidize the cost of typesetting with the full amount you have paid in current membership fees. Just ask.

The other accomplishment we can announce in this issue is a good deal of work we’ve done on strengthening and clarifying the journal policies. This is reflected in added language in our “About the journal” menu and “Author Guidelines.” This in turn has allowed us to apply and be accepted for indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

We publish two other research papers in this issue. In Pakistan, Asghar et al. found that 80% in the same very young age group as Saaka et al. studied regularly received food with sugar added. In other ways as well, they found worse complementary feeding practices in their largely urban middle class sample than were seen in northern Ghana. Prieto presents a qualitative study of the dietary advice given to pregnant women in England and how they respond to it.

Next we present three commentaries. Levinson and Herforth discuss monitoring and evaluation of agriculture projects intended to have nutritional impact. Given the likelihood that resources for this are limited, they suggest among other things the use of the sentinel site approach. Konlan and Abiwu discuss ways in which COVID lockdowns in Ghana may have done harm to nutrition and learning among school children in Ghana. Kent asks why food production has to respond only to the need for profits and not also, as in the distant past, community-based needs.

We have two letters to the editor which present technical information. Mannar et al. present up to date research findings and remaining challenges for salt fortified with both iodine and iron in India. Melo et al. describe how breastfeeding was dealt with at a teaching hospital in Recife, Brazil during the COVID epidemic.

Finally, Kent reviews “Fruit and Vegetables: Opportunities and Challenges for Small-scale Sustainable Farming,” a market-oriented book on how these foods can strengthen livelihoods for small producers. He contrasts this with gardening, which focuses on the nutrition of growers.

--Ted Greiner