Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of dietary intake among pregnant women in a rural area of western China

Version: 2 Date: 8 April 2009

Reviewer: Inge Huybrechts

Reviewer’s report:

I would like to thank the authors for the great efforts they did to clearly answer all our questions! Although I agree with all changes the authors made in general, there are only some Minor Essential & discretionary Revisions that I would recommend:

Minor Essential Revisions

Reviewer 1: # Major Compulsory Revisions number 1:

The following sentence that has been added is not fully correct: “However one of the limitations of this method is that it may overestimate dietary intake.” It is true that FFQ can overestimate nutrient intakes, but this is not always the case and depends mainly on the number of groups included in the FFQ (see nutritional epidemiology of Walter Willett). Long FFQ with many food groups are keen to overestimate while short FFQ with only small number of food groups are keen to underestimate. However, in your validation study you showed clearly that indeed your FFQ overestimated nutrient intakes. Therefore, I would recommend to change the sentence as follows:

“However FFQ might under- or overestimate nutrient intakes depending on the number of food groups included in the FFQ. Based upon our validation study, we should notice that our FFQ in general slightly overestimated nutrient intakes.”

Reviewer 1: # Major Compulsory Revisions number 3:

The following sentence I would recommend to change: “Though these higher intakes of nutrients could partly be explained by the expected over-reporting of nutrient intake as noted in the validation study for the FFQ used.”

I would prefer if you replace “partly” by “possibly” as you are not 100% sure about this.

Discretionary Revisions

For figure 2 iron intake, it would be even clearer if the two legends * and § were integrated in only one legend (the RNI for iron intake is an AI)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests’