Reviewer's report

Title: Validation of digital photographs as a tool in 24-h recall, for improvement of dietary assessment among rural populations in developing countries

Version: 2 Date: 29 April 2012

Reviewer: Yue Cheng

Reviewer's report:

Improving 24-hour recall method especially among rural population in low income countries is a very good attempt. Study methodology appears sound and reflects methods used in other dietary assessment validation studies. My main suggestions for revision are:

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. How did authors measure and evaluate the compliance (line 195, page8)?
   What’s the percentage of women agreed to participate the study?
2. The authors should describe the education level of participants in the result.
3. Regarding the amounts of food group, geometric means should be presented if they are normally distributed after log transformation. Alternately, quartiles (p25, P50, p75) can be used.
4. In the discussion, the authors should comment on possible factors which may impact on good agreement between two methods, i.e. participants were volunteers; all participants were women and females might have more patience than males.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

5. It would be helpful if both percentages and absolute numbers were presented in Table 1.
6. In tables, for means and SDs, the number of digits after decimal point should be same, eg two significant figures after decimal point. (The third and fifth column in Table 2).

For the minor revisions (need for textual changes) I would like to refer to the pdf file in annex:

7. Please see line 168, ‘marked’ might be replaced by ‘market’.
8. Please see line 202, ‘the test day’ might be replaced by ‘on the test day’.
9. Please see line 206, ‘the same’ might be replaced by ‘at the same time’.
10. Please see line 241, ‘e.i.’ might be replaced by ‘i.e.’.
11. Please see line 300 to 302, a comma is missed in sentence ‘As 11 women
had one of their meals (mid-afternoon snack or dinner) outside their home complete data of weighed food record was available for 34 women (76%).

12. Please see line 349, a hard return is missed.
13. Please see line 417, ‘these differences the method’ needs be modified.
14. Please see line 428, ‘for’ might be replaced by ‘by’.
15. Please see line 458 to 460, commas and full stops should be edited.

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be helpful if the authors can provide information of total time of each participant spent on taking photographs of all their meals consumed on the test day. Because it may help readers to understand the burdens brought to participants and estimate the possibility of using such method in other areas.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.