REPORT ON REVIEW OF MANUSCRIPT NUTN-D-17-00029

GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. A timely study that should generate a lot of interest coming at a time when multi-sectoral approach is considered the most appropriate strategy to address nutrition-sensitive interventions for improved nutrition outcomes.

2. This formative study will provide useful information on the barriers, challenges and opportunities for the multi-sectoral approach for the many countries that are putting this strategy in place.

3. The paper is well written and the flow of ideas is logical with very limited grammatical and syntax errors.

4. The paper is limited in review of literature from other countries.

Title: Is clear and portrays the content of the paper.

Abstract: Well written; the background, justification for the study, the methodology, results, and conclusions well-articulated. Nonetheless, the authors should indicate the number of districts from which the data was collected.

Background Information:

Has captured most of the relevant information for this study giving an appropriate justification for the programme and for the formative assessment. It is suggested that the authors also review literature from other countries (even if limited) to show the barriers, challenges, opportunities etc. that programmes with similar objectives have experienced.
Methods:

Well-written and comprehensive section. The authors should indicate how many Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews were conducted with study participants from the various institutions indicated.

Results:

Comprehensive but more voices (quotations of what people said) would have strengthened the findings.

Discussion:

* Okay but would be strengthened by comparison to studies done in other countries (however, the limitation of information on this kind of studies is acknowledged)

* The authors should probably have discussed the following issues:

What can the national government do:

* To improve/create awareness at district and community levels on the importance of using the multi-sectoral approach in improving nutritional outcomes?

* To cascade multi-sectoral approach from national to community level?

* To change attitudes and improve commitment of the other sectors particularly those in agriculture towards the multi-sectoral approach?

* To improve/create expertise required for personnel in agriculture to understand and adopt nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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