

NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF MASO31 RECIPE AND COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING ACCORDING TO THE WHO RECOMMENDATIONS IN KATANGA, DR CONGO

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Research

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ABSTRACT

Inappropriate complementary feeding is among the main causes of malnutrition worldwide. However, optimal complementary feeding is an effective child survival strategy ranked among the top life-saving interventions for children under 5 years. WHO and UNICEF underline the use of available food locally produced for children less than 2 years as a significant strategy to ensure the optimal complementary feeding. Maize-Soy blend in 3/1 proportion (MASO31) is consumed as complementary food in Katanga. Nevertheless, its nutritional value isn't known nor its adequacy as additional food. This study aimed to evaluate the nutritional value of MASO31 content according to the WHO recommendations on complementary feeding.

Two samples of MASO31 formulas were taken of two different preparations, for biochemical analysis nutrients data (energy, protein, Fe, Ca, P, Zn) in the Research and Agro Alimentary Analysis Center (CRAA) of Lubumbashi. The biochemical methods used were specific to analyze each nutrient data in MASO31 such as conversion factors and KJELDHAL. Comparative analysis of «MASO31» content was done using the WHO Complementary Feeding Recommendations as gold standard.

Energy and nutrients content of 100g of «MASO31» were higher than the WHO Recommendations for complementary feeding period in daily need. But, calcium and phosphorus content was lower than the recommendations and needed improvements. The number of times that was proposed by ACANUDE NGO for «MASO31» to be fed is similar to the WHO recommendations on meal frequency in complementary feeding.

MASO31 may be recommended in complementary feeding in DRC but calcium and phosphorus content should be enriched.

Key words: Adequate complementary food, Complementary feeding, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Local complementary food and Nutritional value.

Highlights

- MASO31 is a cereal-legume blend formula in 3/1 proportions in terms of maize and soy respectively what are locally produced, available, consumed and non-constraint among mother's feeding practices to their children in D R Congo.
- MASO31 is a new adequate recipe whose nutritional value wasn't known, but it is firstly analyzed and evaluated in our study area where it is updated according to the WHO Recommendations for the complementary feeding practices in our study area for the first time.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended, since 1998, that children should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months, followed by continued breastfeeding (BF) with complementary feeding (CF) from 6 months up to two years or over two years (Motee A, Jeewon R. 2014; Liard M. et al. 2014 ; Rao S. 2011; Issaka A.I. et al. 2014 and Issaka A.I. et al. 2015) in order to achieve optimal growth, development and child health. During this period, children may be affected by acute malnutrition, which may lead to mortality or to stunting, if they consume insufficient quantities and poor quality of additional food over a long-time, even if they received optimal breastfeeding (Rao S. 2011; Issaka A.I. et al. 2014 and Issaka A.I. et al. 2015). In spite of the WHO Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) recommendations, malnutrition is always one of the main public health challenges of the 21st century, particularly in developing countries (Butha Z.A. and Salam R.A. 2012; Tigist Kassa et al. 2016; Semahegn A. 2014; Lassi ZS et al. 2013). In 2016, wasting affected almost 51.5 million children less than 5 years worldwide and was attributable cause of 12.6% of 6.9 million deaths with more than one third related to inadequate CF (Butha Z.A. and Salam R.A. 2012; Semahegn A. 2014; Lassi ZS et al. 2013; James P et al. 2016; Langendorf C. et al. 2014; and Hong Zhou Phd1 et al. 2012). Nineteen million of them were severely affected and at higher death risk with a large majority from sub-Saharan Africa countries including Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of 34 developing countries where malnutrition is the major problem of public health. Around one out of two children younger than 5 years was stunted, more than 6 million children under 5 years were wasted and 1.9 million of severe acute malnutrition cases were estimated in 2017. Around 600000 children less than 5 years die every year from consequences of malnutrition (UNICEF RDC 2014). Food insecure people were approximately 80 million in 2015 and 108 million in 2016 in the world (ENN, NUTRITION EXCHANGE 2017). Seven out of ten households were food insecure in 2016 within DRC (PAM and INS-DRC 2016).

1.2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Inadequate complementary feeding (CF) is among the principal causes of malnutrition worldwide while the optimal complementary feeding was shown to be an effective child survival strategy ranked among the top life-saving interventions for children under 5 years. The determinants of inappropriate CF are low energy and nutrient quality of the additional food not counting others environmental variables concerned (Dewey KG and Mayers DR 2011; Christine P. Stewart et al. 2013; Saaka M et al. 2015). Alone, optimal CF could prevent almost 6 to 20% of under-five mortality in developing countries (Fahmida U et al. 2015; Haile D et al. 2015; Tiwari Rina et al. 2014). In DRC, the DHS-2013-2014 reported that the CF practices were poorly observed and a high prevalence of malnutrition was reported (UNICEF RDC 2014 and RDC MNSP MNP MNA 2014). The World Food Program (WFP) and DRC-Plan Ministry (2016) found a higher prevalence of food insecurity than in 2013-2014 (PAM and INS-DRC 2016). However, there is limited evidence and knowledge on adequacy of additional foods locally produced and consumed. The Non-Governmental Organization of Development (NGOD) ACANUDE had developed a local food mixture based on a maize-soy blend mixture in 3/1 proportions, named «MASO31». It is used in some DRC-provinces in CF, but its energy and nutrients content is unknown.

1.3. RATIONALE

World Health Organization and UNICEF underline the use of locally available food products for children less than 2 years as a significant strategy to ensure optimal complementary feeding for growth, development, and optimal wellbeing of children in the first crucial 1000 days (8 and 19). Knowledge on nutritional value of «MASO31» formulas used as complementary foods in DRC will serve health authorities' planners to better orient; to better plan the nutritional program and the mothers to use accessible and available adequate additional food for their children. This will help to prevent malnutrition and indirectly to contribute achieving the second sustainable development goal "*End hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture*". It will be possible to improve CF practices with availa-

ble locally produced food mixture, «MASO31», as recommended by WHO and UNICEF. mm»MASO31» is geographically and financially accessible, socio-culturally accepted and locally available solutions to the rural people in DRC, allowing the reduction of malnutrition rate. The results of the present study will contribute a new piece of evidence base for other researchers in DRC.

1.4. OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to evaluate the nutritional value of «MASO31» content according to the complementary feeding WHO recommendations.

2. MATERIALS & METHODS

2.1. Study area

MAO31 formula is a maize-soya blend mixture used in complementary feeding, prepared by ACANUDE NGOD and consumed in the entire DRC especially in Ex Katanga province where mining remains the principal occupation of most people. A minority of people have agriculture as the main occupation while few of them are involved in trading. The principal staple foods include cereals (maize, rice), tubers, legumes (beans), nuts (peanuts), vegetables and many animal and vegetable imported foods.

2.2. Design, sampling, techniques method and target population of MASO31

In a fundamental study, a biochemical method was used to determine the nutritional value of 100 grams of MASO31 in terms of energy, proteins and micro-nutrients. Two samples of Maize-Soy blend, MASO31 formula, were taken from two different preparations for biochemical analysis. Energy, and nutrients (protein, Fe, Ca, P, Zn,) were analyzed in the Research and Agro-alimentary Analysis Center (CRAA) of Lubumbashi (ILUNGA NDALA W 2014). Conversion factors, Kjeldhal, non-azoted extractive and spectrometry of plasma inductive coupling emission were the methods used for analyses. The moisture content of MASO31 was determined by the loss of weight due at the beginning of water by evaporation following the rise in the temperature. The procedure was to introduce 5g of MASO31' mass in a dried and tared capsule. Then, to place the capsule in

the drying oven (HERAUS) at 105°C for 24 hours. The capsule was withdrawn from the drying oven and was coupled with the desiccator during 30 minutes and then weighed. After another 12 hours in the drying oven, the capsule was weighed until constant weight.

$$\% \text{ en H} = \frac{(P_{\text{cap vide}} + P_{\text{E}}) - P_{\text{cap après étuvage}}}{P_{\text{E}}} \times 100$$

Legend: Pcap vide = weight of the empty capsule. Pcap après étuvage = weight of the capsule after heating. Pcap vide + Pcap après étuvage = Perte de poids = loss of weight (moisture). PE = Weight of the test specimen.

The KJELDHAL method was used to determine MASO31 protein content. Proteins were dosed indistinctly starting from total nitrogen. The method consisted in mineralizing samples in the concentrated sulphuric acid with sodium or potassium sulphate, copper sulfate and mercury chloride, such that all nitrogen, except for the nitrate nitrogen, was transformed into ammoniac. This last product was then distilled in alkaline mediums and was collected by an acid solution titrated by a base. The following materials were used : analytical METTLER device of distillation balances, pipettes and washing bottles and drying Kjeldhal balloon. The concentrated sulphuric acid, copper sulfate, mercury chloride (Hg Cl), sodium sulphate and soda 10 N (soda detergent), hydrochloric acid (HCl 0,1N), soda (0,1N), mixed indicator: red of bromothymol (RB) and phenolphthalein were the reagents to achieve the protein analysis content in MASO31. The process was the mineralization of 2g of MASO31-distillation-titration and expression of the results.

The MASO31 fat content was obtained using the Soxhlet method which consisted to extract the fat content by an organic solvent with the heat effect by the Soxhlet apparatus. The process was that 5g of MASO31 was carefully introduced into a cartridge in cellulose. Then the cartridge was introduced into the apparatus of Soxhlet and to assemble the device to backward flow, to carry to boiling 100 ml of n-hexane for 8 hours. Quantitatively solvent charged

with matters was transferred in a clean, dry balloon container. The solvent was driven out and the balloon was dried with the regulated drying oven at 105°C cooled in the desiccator and weighed. The results were expressed by :

$$\%MG = \frac{\text{surchage du ballon}}{(P.E) \text{prised'essai}} \times 100$$

Legend : P.E = weight of specimen test, MG = Fat Mass

The totals carbohydrates content of MASO31 were determined using EXTRACTIVE NOT NITROGEN METHOD. The MASO31 total carbohydrates content was obtained by calculation as follows: % carbohydrates total = 100 - (Proteins + Lipides + Ashes + Cellulose). The calculation compared to the dry matter.

The energy value (kcal) of MASO31 was calculated using the following conversion factors : 1g of protein = 4Kcal, 1g of carbohydrates = 4Kcal and 1g of lipids = 9Kcal.

The SPECTROMETRY OF PLASMA INDUCTIVE COUPLING (ICP) EMISSION method allowed to analyse micronutrients content of MASO31, especially Cu, Fe, Ca, P, Mn, Zn. Firstly, setting in solution by mineralisation by way dries in eliminating the organic matter and silica from the samples, this method makes it possible to put in solution, for their proportioning, a great number of biogenic salts. Procedure: to weigh 0,2g matter in a tube test beforehand washed, dried with the drying oven and tared, to introduce the matter into the test tube more 15 ml of water levels, heated on the plate with the total dissolution of the sample. After cooking, the solution obtained was diluted in a balloon of 100 ml and was supplemented with the water distilled to the feature of gauge; if it has residue one filters the solution. After having adjusted with water distilled with the feature of gauge the solution was homogenized by agitation. Secondly, proportioning of the biogenic salts. The preceding solution was analyzed using a spectrometer VARIAN VISTA (Victoria, Australia), equipped with a detector C CD (To couple To charge Device) allowing the simultaneous determination, with several wavelengths, of all the elements of the

periodic classification of the elements except for the gas body. Proportionings were carried out by carrying out a calibration observing the conditions of the analyzed medium: stamp, acidity. The validation of the results rests on the analysis of a reference sample whose content of biogenic salts was known. These witnesses followed the same analytical advance rigorously that the samples and were introduced at a rate of minimum witness for 20 samples. The nutritional value of MASO31 in vitamin A and in Niacin was not analyzed in the laboratory but the Vitamin A and B1 were calculated from the food composition tables of the DR Congo.

Systematic proportional methods allowed us to identify the projected introduction time of MASO31 formula in IYCF and to examine the daily MASO31 consumption in terms of energy, proteins and micro-nutrients considering the meal frequency recommended by ACANUDE. Comparative analysis of MASO31 nutritional value was done using the WHO Recommendations for complementary feeding as gold standard. The target population of present study was children from 6 to 23 months old.

2.3. Adequacy of complementary food

The recommended energy and frequency of the adequate Complementary Food in the developing countries are: 200 kcal 2 to 3 times per day for infants 6-8 months of age; 300 kcal 3 to 4 times per day at 9-11 months of age and 550 kcal 3-4 times per day at 12-23 months of age (Mohammad Rocky Khan Chowdhury et al. 2016; Beyene M. et al. 2015; Ghosh S et al. 2014; Dennis J. Matanda et al. 2014; Malhotra N 2012 and Nancy F Butte et al 2000). The recommended daily quantities of nutrients in the adequate Complementary Food are: 0.9 gr of proteins/100kcal, 1mg of iron/100kcal, 63 mg of calcium/100kcal and 0.6 mg of zinc/100kcal (Nancy F Butte et al 2000; Kathryn G. Dewey and Kenneth H. Brown 2003).

2.4. MASO 31 formula description

MASO31 is a complementary food formula developed by ACANUDE NGOD in Tanganyika Province in 2013, DRC. The first aim of ACANUDE was to provide and present an additional food mixture local-

ly produced which would be available, geographical-ly, and financially accessible and socio-culturally accepted in the rural areas. Secondly, ACANUDE NGOD aimed to provide one complementary food formula with a high biological value able to meet the nutritional requirements of the children from 6 to 23 months old and for pregnant & nursing women. Children consume MASO31 in gruel form (mush form, mess form, porridge form, and puree form). The daily dosage is determined in the table I. In the empirical study conducted, MASO31 formula was digestible and acceptable in most children. That is why a randomized controlled trials study will be undertaken to assess effectiveness of MASO31 formula (nutritional impact on the nutritional status).

2.5. Composition of the MASO 31 in ingredients predicted by ACANUDE NGOD

The MASO31 composition-ingredients converted into local measurements, in considering a standard measurement, comprises 3 measures of the maize flour, 1 measure of soya flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ measure of sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ measure of palm oil and $\frac{1}{10}$ measure of cooking salt. To the whole mixture of maize-soya blend, one adds the flour of germinated dried maize representing a tenth of the whole mixture quantity. This is to make the MASO31 digestive. Before mixing ingredients, soya grain is roasted and ground in flour while the maize flour is too roasted until to obtain the yellow coloration enhancing energetic balance and taking away nutrient antagonists like phytic acid and polyphenols. All components of the MASO31 formula are always

consumed in the study area. Below table I, the daily dose and the daily frequency of MASO31 per age bracket of children, pregnant and nursing women are presented as recommended by ACANUDE NGOD.

2.6. Data quality control analysis and potential biases mitigation

In an effort to have quality results, two different samples of Maize and Soya blend “MASO31” formulas were taken from two different preparation batches aiming to ensure the reliability and validity of samples analyzed in the CRAA which is recognized as regards food agro analysis.

2.7. Data analyses

The comparative analyses of MASO31 content with the CF WHO Recommendations were done. Details in table 1.

2.8. Ethics consideration

The permission to carry out this study was sought from Health Province authorities and the study protocol was approved by the ethical committee of the University of Lubumbashi in DRC (N° UNILU/CEM/201/2020 eth_med@yahoo.fr in Mach 14, 2020) in order to guarantee the respect of the person, the benevolence and the equitable & honest distribution of the risks & benefit of the study. The MASO31 formula is prepared in mixing the foods currently eaten by the people in DRC. So MASO31 is not constrained and could not provide any disadvantage to children.

Table 1: Daily dose of the MASO31 per age bracket and daily meal frequency recommended by ACANUDE

Age bracket in months	Daily dose of the MASO31 expressed in international measure	Daily dose of the MASO31 expressed in local measure	Daily MASO31 frequency consumption
6 to 11	100 to 150 g	$\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ordinary household cup	1 to 2 times
12 to 23	150 to 200 g	$\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 ordinary household cup	2 to 3 times
24 to 35	200 to 250 g	1 to .25 ordinary household cup	3 to 4 times
36 to 47	250 to 300 g	1.25 to 1.5 ordinary household cup	4 times
48 to 59	300 to 350 g	1.5 to 1.75 ordinary household cup	4 times
Pregnant wife	350 to 400 g	1.75 to 2 ordinary household cup	2 times
Nursing wife	400 to 500 g	2 to 2.5 ordinary household cup	3 times

3. RESULTS

The agro alimentary Bulletin of the results of analyses realized by the Research and Agro alimentary Analysis Center is presented below in Table 2.

3.1. Nutritional value of MASO31 determined by CRAA

Table II, shows the energy, macronutrients and micronutrients content of the MASO31 formulas.

3.2. The introduction time of MASO31 formulas to the children

Table I shows the daily dose of the MASO 31 per age bracket recommended by ACANUDE according to the daily nutritional needs of children from 6 to 23 months old.

3.3. The daily MASO31 doses per age bracket recommended by ACANUDE

Regarding the finding in table 1, children 6-11 months old must consume 150 g of MASO31

one to two times daily while those 12-23 months old can consume 200 g of MASO31 two to three times daily.

3.4. Comparative analysis of the daily MASO31 energy contribution with complementary feeding World Health Organization Recommendations

The finding in table 3 shows that MASO 31 largely covers complementary WHO Recommendations in term of daily energy need and in term of frequency.

3.5. Comparative analysis of daily MASO31 proteins and micronutrients contribution recommended by NGOD ACANUDE with the complementary feeding WHO recommendations

The proteins, iron and zinc content from the recommended daily amount of MASO31 were more than the WHO recommendation but, calcium and phosphorus content were lower as shown in table 4.

Table 2. The nutritional value of 100 grams of MASO31 in term of energy, macronutrients and micronutrients (ILUNGA NDALA W. 2014).

Nutrients Analyzed	Sample 1	Sample 2
Moisture (g)	8	8
Energy (kcal)	409	410
Lipides(g)	13	14
Protéines(g)	13	11
Glucides(g)	60	60
Cellulose (g)	1	1
Cu (mg)	5.2	0
Fe (mg)	18	16
Ca (mg)	201	201
P (mg)	159	159
Mn (mg)	2	2
Zn (mg)	7	7
Pl (mg)	1.6	1.6
Vit. A (mg)	28	28
Vit. B1 (mg)	0.24	0.24

Table 3. Comparative analysis of the daily MASO31 energy, proteins & micronutrients and his daily frequency recommended by ACANUDE with complementary feeding WHO Recommendations (Rao S et al. 2011; Fahmida U et al. 2015).

Age bracket in months	Daily Contribution of the MASO 31 (in Kcal) per child	Frequency MASO31	Daily Contribution of CF / WHO Recommended in Kcal per child	Frequency of CF / WHO Recommended
8 to 9	615	1 to 2times	200	2 to 3
9 to 11	615	1 to 2times	300	3 to 4
12 à 23	820	2 to 3 times	550	3 to 4

Table 4. Comparative analysis of daily MASO31 dose quantity of proteins and micro nutrients contribution with Daily Standards WHO Recommended Contributions in proteins and micronutrients by 100Kcal (Fahmida U et al. 2015).

Analyzed nutrients	Sample 1 MASO 31	Sample 2 MASO 31	Standards WHO Recommendations
Proteins(g/100 Kcal)	3,24	2,75	0,9
Fe (mg/100 Kcal)	4,5	4,0	1,0
Ca (mg/100 Kcal)	50,25	50,25	63,0
P (mg/100 Kcal)	40,0	40,0	63,0
Zn (mg/100 Kcal)	1,75	1,75	0,6
Niacin (mg)	NA	NA	0,9

4. DISCUSSION

Exploring and assessing MASO31 energy, proteins and minerals content, the table II shows that MASO31 gives the laboratory result analysis and shows that it contained all required nutrients. Concerning the introduction time of MASO31 formulas in the Complementary Feeding, according to the ACANUDE documentation on MASO31 development, MASO31 may be introduced by the 6th month of age. The minimum meal frequency and the minimum dietary diversity in terms of energy, proteins and micronutrients recommended for MASO31 formulas, as shown in tables 1, 3 and 4 are similar to the WHO minimum meal frequency because the MASO31 can be fed to the children two to four times per day. In table 3 we observe that the expected MASO31 energy content was higher than the WHO Recommendations. Then in table 4, MASO31 covers entirely the standards WHO recommends for energy, proteins, in iron and in zinc, but only 63% and 80% of the standards WHO recommends respectively for phosphorus and calcium. The niacin content is not known because no vitamin analyses were done. A similar cereal-legume blend showed improved

growth in children in Ghana (Madoka Inoue and Colin W. Binns 2014). Our previous research about complementary feeding habits in DRC, indicated that most mothers usually give maize-soya based-recipes because maize and soy are available, locally produced and not constrained. Among many constraints to improve child nutrition through quality CF, there is acceptability, which is important one when the foods are imported or of external origin (Mohamed Ag Ayoya et al. 2010). In Southeast Asian Countries, complementary feeding is rice-based and contains low amounts of animal source food partly because of lack of knowledge about nutrient-rich food because of economic constraints (Fahmida U and Preedy VR 2012). These cereal-based diets have high anti-nutrients content such as polyphenols and phytic acid that could compromise iron and zinc absorption (Gibson RS, Baley KB, Gibbs M et al. 2010). It was shown that plant-based complementary foods used in low in-come countries are associated with micronutrient deficiencies, especially of iron, zinc and calcium (Santika O et al. 2009; Enderson VP, Cornwall J, Jack S et al. 2008; Gibson RS, Ferguson EL and Lehrfeld J. 1998). As stated previously, maize and

soy in MASO31 are toasted before their mixing to remove phytate and polyphenols, allowing iron and zinc bioavailability, avoiding micronutrient deficiencies. Caterpillars 'powder is recommended to be added for improving phosphorus and calcium content of MASO31. Willett et al, in the EAT-Lancet Commission on Health Diet from Sustainable Food System, emphasized that "a diet rich in plant-based foods and with fewer animal source food confers both improved health and environmental benefits" (Walter Willett MD, Johan Rockstrom et al. 2017). In Myanmar, the 12-23 months old children diet remained inadequate in niacin, folate, thiamin, Fe, Zn, Ca and vitamin B6 and an acceptable set of complementary foods recipes were developed to improve the dietary practices of Myanmar children in using locally available foods. An alternative intervention was the fortification with the locally available vegetables and nutrient-dense foods that would fill the nutrient gaps (Lwin Mar Hlaing et al. 2016). This corroborates the "MASO31" recipe component and enrichment with caterpillars. All ingredients of MASO31 are locally available, non-constrained in our study area.

LIMITS OF RESEARCH

Present research did not assess the availability of MASO31 in the study area. The physical, geographical, socio-cultural and financial accessibility were not assessed in this study. According to the financial limitation, our research focused on evaluating introduction time, minimum meal frequency, energy, protein and micronutrient content of the MASO31 only. We did not assess the nutritional impact of MASO31 in the growth of children.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All comparison analysis of MASO31 content in energy, proteins and micronutrients with the complementary feeding WHO Recommendations highlight MASO31 recipe as an adequate complementary food in DRC. Improvements of MASO31 in calcium and phosphorus by adding local caterpillars powder are recommended. A Randomized Controlled trial is needed to determine the effects of MASO31 on infant's growth during complementary feeding period.

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