Building a nutrition education evidence data base to support policy and planning in developing countries

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The term “nutrition education” as used in this proposal refers to action taken to improve food practices and attitudes, and has broad application in several sectors and at several levels.[1]

WHEREAS

- despite the growing evidence of the potential long-term impact of food and nutrition education on health, there is a striking lack of nutrition education where it is most needed - in many developing countries, at all levels (policy, planning, training, implementation), in most nutrition-related sectors and in integrated interventions (FAO 2011);
- much evidence is not well-known to country practitioners, governments, NGOs and national institutions, and to many donors who do not have the time, resources or personnel to find, assemble and interpret it, and/or to develop the necessary instruments for advocacy, strategic decision-making, design and capacity development;
- there is a need for more evidence relevant to nutrition education in developing countries, their issues, contexts and capacity needs, evidence which is compelling in quantity and quality, easily accessible and understandable, and fit for need and purpose;

THEREFORE

- SNEB urges its leadership to spearhead the establishment of a nutrition education evidence database for developing countries, which will help to identify research gaps, inform advocacy, formulate policy briefs, design nutrition education programs and curricula, and promote local nutrition education employment infrastructure and capacity in developing countries in all nutrition-related sectors (e.g. health, education, agriculture and food security, social protection and community development).

AND

- SNEB urges its members to support in principle, and practically with information and advice, the establishment and use of this nutrition education evidence database for developing countries.