INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE FOOD COMPOSITION TABLES (PHILFCT®) ONLINE DATABASE

Kristine T. Biona, Regina G. Rodriguez, Ma. Ariza C. Baylosis, Celeste Joyce B. Tomas, and John Robert A. Matanguihan

BACKGROUND
The Philippine Food Composition Tables Online Database, PhilFCT®, is the country’s web-based nutrition tool containing nutrient data and information of over 1,500 commonly-consumed food items in the Philippines. It was officially launched together with other IFNRI modules on February 2016. It is also an important nutrition tool used for most of quantitative human nutrition researches. Thus, enhancement of the PhilFCT® database is necessary and it needs to be constantly checked, updated, and expanded with inclusion of new data.

OBJECTIVE
This project aimed to enhance the developed PhilFCT® Online Database and prepare the integrated management system for the PhilFCT®. Specifically, to add food images/photo documentations and newly evaluated food data; conduct Focus Group Discussion (FGD) of the enhanced database; and identify, assess and add components needed for the preparation of the integrated management system.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Food samples were collected in Metro Manila markets and nearby provinces. The samples were described, prepared and photo documented. New nutrient data were obtained from the generated and compiled food composition data of the Food Quality Unit. The photo documents as well as the new food data were thoroughly verified and checked prior to uploading to the database. FGDs were conducted to gather feedbacks from in-house and outside panelists to determine the improvements needed for the database and prepare the integrated management system protocol. Upgrades in the features of the database and corrections of programming errors in the database were done by the developer.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS
Additional 494 food samples were collected and photo documented. The photo documents as well as the new 6199 food data for Total Dietary Fiber, Total Sugars, Sodium, Available Carbohydrate and Energy were checked and uploaded to the database. Series of FGDs with invited in-house and outside panelists were also conducted to further determine the improvements needed for the database. An enhanced database was developed based on comments obtained. A draft protocol of the integrated management system of PhilFCT® was also prepared including the documentation of the proposed additional features and the encountered technical glitches in the web design program. The copyright of PhilFCT® of web-based database was granted to FNRI on September 2016 and the official logo of the database was examined and approved for trademark registration by Intellectual Property Office Philippines (IPOPHL) on November 2016.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
As of May 2017, hits for the enhanced PhilFCT® was over 115,901 with 1836 registered users. The enhanced database was also included in various events during the 42nd FNRI Seminar Series and 2016 National Science and Technology Week. Continuous enhancement and upgrading of the PhilFCT® is needed to fulfill the demands and challenges involved in the dissemination of food composition data in the Philippines. Furthermore, awareness and training programs about the PhilFCT® applications and uses among professionals and nutrition allied sector practitioners are also suggested to optimize the use of the food data as basis for food development, selection of cultivars, food supplementation and fortification, nutrition intervention, decision-making and policy formulation.