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(P3.87) *Micronutrient composition of rice-based non-instant breakfast meal fortified with date palm for school aged children*

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Background and objectives: Micronutrient deficiencies are a major public health concern in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa, particularly among children 0–5 years and school-aged children. Iron deficiency (anaemia) affects 40–60% of African children, impairing oxygen transport, immunity, and cognitive development. Zinc, vital for growth and immunity, contributes to over 450,000 child deaths annually. This study examines the micronutrient composition of a rice-based breakfast cereal fortified with nutrient-rich date palm. Two locally grown Nigerian rice varieties, Farmers' White and Abakaliki, were analysed for their nutritional contributions.