

Development of *Moringa Olefeira* Enriched Muffins

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Abstract: This research was based on the development of *Moringa olefeira* enriched muffin. *Moringa Olefeira* has the potential to adequately support dietary needs and increase variety of food products on the market but however its usage in Zimbabwe is limited. Protein, calcium and moisture content were determined in the enriched muffin. The experiments were carried out to estimate nutrient content of protein and calcium and the sensory evaluation (appearance, taste, aroma and texture). The *Moringa olefeira* muffin contains more protein: 13.9g and 15.19g for moringa samples B and C respectively while the ordinary sample A has 8.13g. The moringa muffins also proved to have more calcium than the un-enriched muffin which was 121mg whilst the enriched samples B and C had 244mg and 307mg respectively. The moisture content of the ordinary sample was 24.16%, moringa sample B had 28.1% and the other moringa sample C had 28.7% moisture. The acceptability and preference were compared with that of the ordinary muffin and from the analysis of the responses given by the panelists, they preferred and accepted the moringa enriched muffin. Nutrient analysis indicated that an increase in moringa powder resulted in an increase in protein and calcium content in the moringa enriched muffin. Sensory attributes like aroma, texture, appearance and taste were also acceptable.

Keywords: Enriched Muffins, *Moringa Olefeira* Leaves, Development

1. Introduction

Good nutrition is vital throughout one's life cycle. Children's early experiences with food play an important part in shaping their later eating habits, and good eating habits support healthy growth and development (source). Giving positive messages about food in early years setting will also help stress the importance of a good diet to children's families. Child malnutrition has become the leading cause of death among infants in developing countries, (Robert and McDonald, 2006). Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Surveys (1988, 1994, 1999 and 2005-06) have shown that levels of malnutrition among children under five years had been increasing in the past two decades. For example, the prevalence of stunted children under five years increased from 21% in 1994 to 34% in 2010 (Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2005-06; Food and Nutrition Council and the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, 2010). The deterioration of child nutritional status gave rise to significant increases in nutritional deficiencies related diseases and exacerbating the spread of communicable diseases among children under five years (Food and Nutrition Council and Ministry Of Health and Child Welfare, 2010). The

Government of Zimbabwe (2004) noted that about 34% of early childhood deaths in Zimbabwe are related to under nutrition.

The diet provided by most families in Zimbabwe is unbalanced and the snacks offered are not nutritious or junk foods like biscuits, jiggies, cakes and sweets while other families in remote parts can go to bed on an empty stomach. This is due to the economic status but while we are in this state it is necessary to find solution to the problem which has led to malnutrition. The rate at which most pupils are eating junk foods instead of a decent meal has drastically increased leading to poor nourishment in infants. The researchers then decided to enrich muffins with *Moringa olifera* which would inevitably provide a certain percentage of the calcium and protein Recommended Daily Allowances. *Moringa olefeira* is known popularly as drumstick tree, it is a herbaceous plant grown for its nutritious greens. Moringa is a drought resistant, medium-sized, evergreen tree that prefers warm, frost-free climates to flourish. Its leaves and seeds can be harvested from a well-established tree. Sauveur (2001), postulates that *Moringa olefeira* plant possess unique nutritional qualities that are of benefit to impoverished communities around Zimbabwe that are lacking in many nutritional supplements if

it is utilised in the diet. According to Lowell (2002), 100 grams of *Moringa oleifera* leaves provide about 9.8 grams of protein. They also have monounsaturated fatty acids like oleic, it is a good source of vitamin A and C as well as the B-complex, minerals like calcium, iron, zinc and phosphorus. A lack or deficiency of these nutrients can therefore be detrimental to health, the impaired functioning of other body systems. Fortification involves addition of minerals or other nutrients to increase their content in the food. It serves to assist any individual consuming the food to better meet their nutritional needs. Fortification of the muffins with *Moringa oleifera* would then allow the consumer to benefit the nutrients therein.

2. Method

Drying of *Moringa oleifera* leaves was the first main stage after they were collected from the trees from the same tree in Binga rural area. The leaves were laid indoors in an open space where they were dried for 3 days of which this time could have been less if the weather was very hot. Drying had to be done indoors and not in the sun, so as to avoid destruction of vital nutrients like vitamin C and A which are easily affected by light and heat. Drying was done to eliminate moisture and also to preserve the leaves. After drying the leaves were pounded into a powder using a pestle and mortar.

The development was done through a series of experiments. The actual processing involved the following ingredients and various steps.

2.1. Calcium Content

The method used for analysis was the Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy method (AAS). Welz (2010) explain that AAS involves aspirating an aqueous sample into a flame where the analyses are atomized. An isolated atom absorbs light at specific wavelengths which are unique for each element with the amount of absorbed light being directly proportional to the concentration of the analyze. It is due to this property that concentrations of specific components of products can be determined. Calcium absorbs strongly at 239.9nm and 422.7nm.

2.2. Protein Content Determination Using Kjeldahl Method

Digestion:

5 grams of the muffin and *Moringa oleifera* leaves powder sample was placed into a digestion flask and then digested by heating it in the presence of 4% sulphuric acid (an oxidizing agent which digests the food), anhydrous sodium sulfate (to speed up the reaction by raising the boiling point) and a catalyst, copper, (to speed up the reaction).

Neutralization:

After the digestion had been completed the digestion flask was connected to a receiving flask by a tube. The solution in the digestion flask is then made alkaline by addition of sodium hydroxide, which converts the ammonium sulfate into ammonia gas.

The ammonia gas that was formed was liberated from the solution and moved out of the digestion flask and into the receiving flask which contained an excess of boric acid.

The low pH of the solution in the receiving flask converts the ammonia gas into the ammonium ion, and simultaneously converts the boric acid to the borate ion:

2.3. Titration

The nitrogen content was then estimated by titration of the ammonium borate formed with standard sulphuric acid using a suitable indicator to determine the end-point of the reaction.

The concentration of hydrogen ions (in moles) required to reach the end-point was equivalent to the concentration of nitrogen that was in the original food.

A blank sample was run at the same time as the material being analyzed to take into account any residual nitrogen which may be in the reagents used to carry out the analysis.

After nitrogen content was determined, it was converted to a protein content using the appropriate conversion factor: %Protein = % Nitrogen X Factor specific for sample type

Of which the factor for wheat products is 6.25.

2.4. Moisture

Each sample was carefully weighed to 1.000 ± 0.001 g and placed in a pre weighed foil envelope, pre-marked with the sample code and sample weight was recorded. The envelopes were placed in an oven at 213 degrees Celsius for 3 hours after which they were removed from the oven and immediately placed in a desiccator for 10 minutes until the weight was constant, and cooled to room temperature. Subsequently, the samples were removed, the final masses recorded and the percent moisture of each sample calculated.

2.5. Sensory Evaluations

Stone and Sidle (2007) explains that sensory evaluation is a science that measures, analyses and interprets the responses of people to products as perceived by the senses. Acceptance can be measured using various methods. Among these is the 9-Point hedonic scale. Stone and Sidle (2007) describe the 9-Point hedonic scale as a more useful tool because it gives a measure for liking each product, the magnitude of the difference in liking among the products and enables use of parametric statistics to identify significant product differences.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Nutrient Analysis Results

Table 3.1. Nutrient composition of *Moringa Oleifera* leaves powder.

| Nutrient | Amount/100g |
|----------|-------------|
| Protein | 9.10g |
| Calcium | 460mg |

According to Table 1, the protein content for the *Moringa*

Olefeira is slightly lower than the amounts stated in the literature researched which is 9.8g per 100g of the leaves powder. The protein content was high as postulated in literature. Table 4.1 above shows that *Moringa Olefeira* has high amounts of calcium which was about 460mg per 100grams after analysis.

3.2. Nutrient Composition of Muffins Results

Table 3.2. Nutrient composition of the muffins.

| Nutrient | Moringa-free Muffin | Moringa enriched Muffin | Moringa enriched Muffin |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Moringa Quantity | Sample A | Sample B (100grams) | Sample C (150grams) |
| Protein | 8.13g | 13.9g | 15.19g |
| Calcium | 121mg | 244mg | 307mg |

Table 3.2 showed that the protein content of the *Moringa Olefeira* enriched muffin samples B and C were high and the control sample A had the least protein and calcium. The protein content of the *Moringa olefeira* muffin sample B had 25% more protein of the ordinary muffin. Sample C had about 90% more than that of the moringa free muffin sample A and about 50% more than Moringa muffin sample B which had about 13.9g of protein. The calcium content of the muffins was highest in the Moringa enriched muffin sample C which was 307mg and lowest in the ordinary muffin which had not been enriched which was 121mg.

3.3. Moisture Content Analysis

Table 3.3. Results showing wet sample and dried sample.

| Sample name | Wet sample weight/g | Dried sample weight/g |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Ordinary muffin sample A | 5,0147 | 1,2313 |
| Moringa muffin sample B | 5,0016 | 1,405 |
| Moringa muffins sample C | 4,9829 | 1,4291 |

The results in table 3.3 showed variations in the weights of the wet samples of the ordinary muffin, moringa muffin sample A and moringa muffin sample C were 5,0147; 5,0016 and 4,9829 respectively. The dry mass was also recorded after drying and it was 1,2313; 1,405 and 1,4291 respectively. The moisture content was then calculated as a percentage and the results are shown on the table below.

3.4. Results Showing the Moisture Content of Muffins

Table 3.4. Percentage moisture contents of the muffins.

| Sample | %Moisture |
|--------|-----------|
| A | 24,16 |
| B | 28,1 |
| C | 28,7 |

There were variations in the moisture content of the different samples. Sample A which was unfortified had

the least 24,16% of moisture content, sample B had 28,1% moisture while sample C had 28,7% moisture content as shown in table 3.4 above.

3.5. Results for Sensory Evaluation

The sensory evaluation was done for both the Moringa enriched muffin and the data collected was analysed collectively to ensure that accurate results are obtained.

Table 3.5. Results showing moringa enriched muffin.

| Moringa enriched Muffin | Taste | Aroma | Appearance | Texture |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------|---------|
| Like extremely | 9 | 7 | 10 | 14 |
| Like very much | 6 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| Like moderately | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| Like slightly | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Neither like nor dislike | 5 | — | 2 | 3 |
| Dislike slightly | — | — | — | — |
| Dislike moderately | — | — | — | — |
| Dislike very much | — | — | — | — |
| Dislike extremely | — | — | — | — |

The results in table 3.5 above show that 9 people of the total respondents liked extremely the taste of the moringa muffin, only 6 liked very much, 2 liked moderately while 2 liked slightly however 5 respondents were indifferent on the taste of the enriched muffin. The aroma of the muffin was less preferred as 7 respondents liked extremely, 7 others liked the aroma very much and 6 of the participants liked slightly. The highest number of individuals liked the appearance of the muffin, the other 5 liked very much, while the other 6 liked very much and the other 6 liked moderately and the other 5 liked slightly.

The texture of the moringa muffin was liked extremely by about 14 people and 5 liked very much while 2 liked moderately and the other 3 liked the texture of the moringa muffin slightly and 3 of the respondents neither liked nor disliked the muffin as shown in table 3.5 above. The respondents liked the muffin and none of them disliked the moringa muffin and on the other hand about 10 were indifferent thus they neither liked nor disliked the muffin.

Table 3.6. Results for Moringa free Muffin.

| Moringa free Muffin | Taste | Aroma | Appearance | Texture |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------|---------|
| Like extremely | 8 | 9 | 6 | 9 |
| Like very much | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| Like moderately | 10 | 5 | 9 | 3 |
| Like slightly | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Neither like nor dislike | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Dislike slightly | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Dislike moderately | — | 1 | — | — |
| Dislike very much | — | — | — | — |
| Dislike extremely | — | — | — | — |

The table 3.6 showed results on sensory evaluation, where 8 of the 30 respondents liked the taste of the ordinary muffin

extremely, 4 liked very much and 10 of the respondents liked moderately, about 3 of the total population liked the taste of the moringa free muffin slightly and 2 people neither liked nor disliked the texture of the muffin which was not enriched and only 1 disliked slightly. The aroma of the moringa free muffin was liked extremely by 9 respondents, 5 people liked very much while 5 others liked moderately and 2 liked slightly, 2 of the 30 respondents neither liked nor disliked the aroma of the moringa free muffin and just 1 person disliked the aroma of the ordinary muffin.

The appearance of the moringa free muffin was extremely liked by 6 individuals and 6 others liked very much, 9 of them liked moderately while 2 only liked slightly the appearance of the ordinary muffin and none of the respondents were indifferent about the appearance but however 1 person disliked the moringa free muffin slightly. The texture of the ordinary muffin was liked extremely by 9 people, 5 of the 30 respondents liked very much and 3 people liked moderately while 4 people liked slightly and none of the respondents neither liked nor disliked the appearance of the moringa free muffin and only 1 disliked the appearance of the muffin. There were no respondents in the population who disliked any of the attributes very much or disliked extremely.

3.6. Results Showing Preferences for Moringa Oleifera Muffin (Sample B)

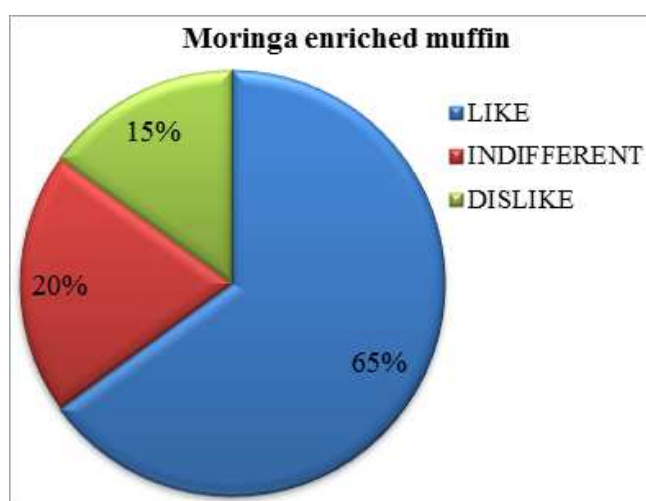


Fig. 1. Results showing Moringa muffin.

The above data in fig.1 shows the results of the different preferences and attitudes towards the moringa muffin whereby 65% of the total population liked the *Moringa oleifera* muffin, only 20 % of the respondents were indifferent towards the muffin but on the other hand about 15 individuals disliked the moringa enriched muffin.

3.7. Results Showing Preferences for Moringa Free Muffin (Sample A)

Fig. 2 above shows the different preferences for the moringa free muffin whereby half or 50% of the population liked the moringa free muffin which was not enriched and 40% of the respondents neither liked nor disliked the moringa free muffin

while 10% disliked the moringa free muffin.

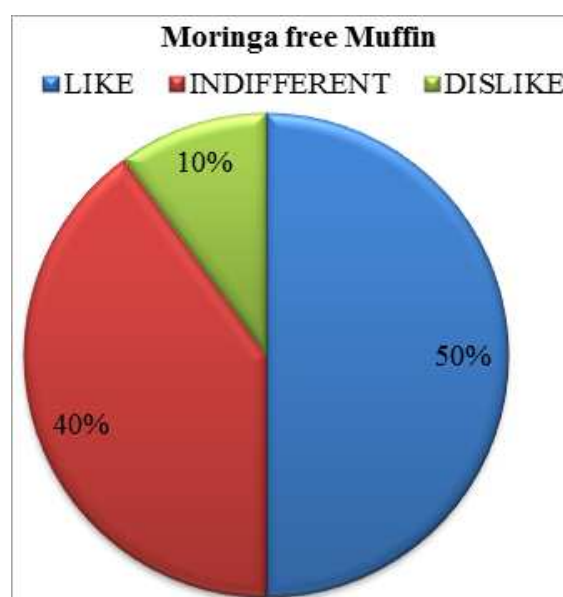


Fig. 2. Results showing preferences for Moringa free muffin.

3.8. Taste

Taste is defined as the sensation perceived via taste buds due to the presence of certain soluble substances. Fig 3 below show that 88% of the respondents liked the taste of the enriched muffin while 62% of the population liked the taste of the ordinary muffin again. None were indifferent about the taste of both of the muffin and 22% disliked the taste of the enriched muffin with 18% disliking the ordinary muffin.

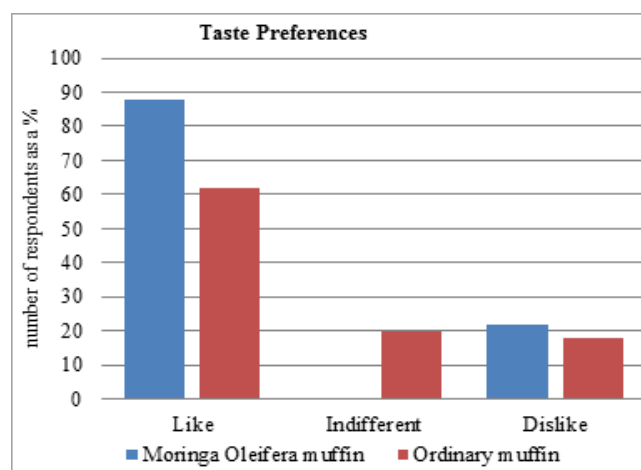


Fig. 3. Results showing Taste Preferences.

3.9. Aroma

Aroma is a sensory impression of a food that is determined by the chemical sense of smell, some reactions during baking are capable of producing a wide range of flavours or aroma. In this case the aroma of the enriched muffin was liked by about 85% of the respondents and 5 individuals were indifferent while none disliked the aroma of the *Moringa oleifera* enriched muffin as shown in fig. 4 below. On the

other hand only 60% of the respondents liked the aroma of the ordinary muffin, 37% were indifferent and about 3% of the respondents disliked the ordinary muffin.

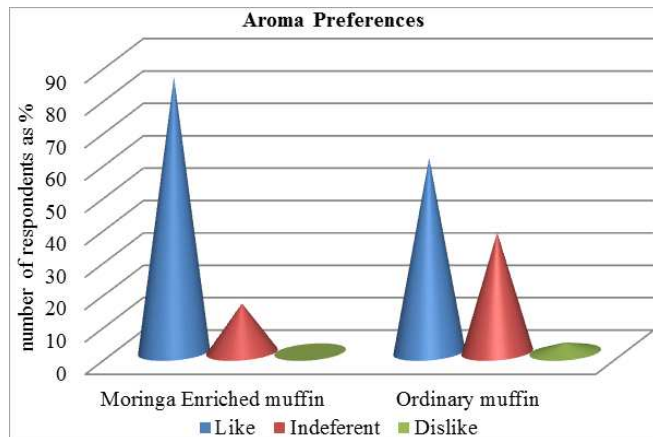


Fig. 4. Results showing aroma preferences.

3.10. Appearance

The scores for the appearance were fair, about 85% of the population liked the appearance and 10% were in different while 3% disliked the appearance and also added on the comments that there is need to improve the appearance, of the *Moringa olefeira* enriched muffin. There were various preferences also for the ordinary muffin whereby 90% of the population liked the appearance of the ordinary muffin, no one was indifferent and 10 disliked them. Respondents commented that there was a need to improve the colour of the muffin while others suggested that they felt the colour of the product was appropriate and a representative of a herbal food. Also on the other hand some respondents commented that the enriched muffin be flavoured with fruits like strawberries for them to look appealing to the people.

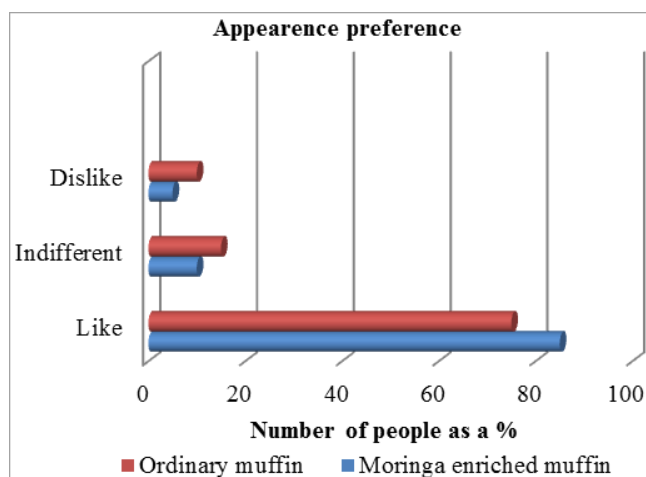


Fig. 5. Appearances Preferences.

3.11. Texture

Texture which can also be termed mouthfeel is a complex sensory attribute encompassing feeling and trigeminal impulses of texture, heat, coolness, sponginess, lubricity or

hardness, which at times is also referred to as texture is a complex sensory attribute encompassing feeling and trigeminal impulses of texture, heat, coolness, sponginess, lubricity, sliminess or chalkiness. The majority of the participants liked the texture of both samples. The moringa enriched had the highest rating of preference with 95% of the population liked the muffin while 80% liked the ordinary muffin, less than 20% of the population were indifferent while 11% of the respondents disliked the texture of the ordinary muffin. Some respondents commented that the texture needed to be improved as the coarse particles of the ground leaves may result in an unpleasant texture.

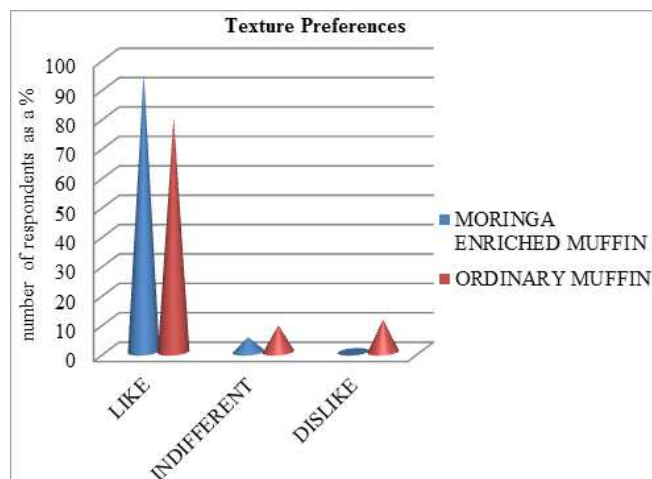


Fig. 6. Results showing Texture preferences.

3.12. Overall Acceptance of the Muffins

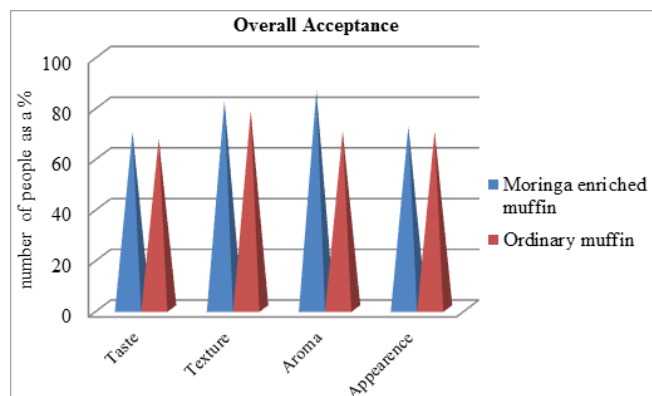


Fig. 7. Results showing overall acceptance.

Fig 7 shows results of the differences in acceptance of the *Moringa olefeira* muffin and ordinary muffin. The *Moringa Olefeira* muffin was well accepted by members of the sensory panel. About 72% of the participants accepted the appearance of the moringa muffin. Attributes such as taste however had less had fewer acceptances with 70% of the population, but through they were higher than acceptance for the ordinary muffin. The overall acceptance of the texture was 72% while texture for the ordinary muffin was 78%. The texture of moringa muffin was acceptance by 82% of the participants while 78% of participants accepted the texture.

4. Conclusion

Moringa oleifera is a plant source which is rich in a number of nutrient-like proteins, essential fats like omega 3 (alpha linoleic) and omega 6 (linoleic), mineral elements like calcium, iron and many others as well as vitamins both water soluble vitamin C, B-complex and fat soluble vitamin A, K and E and fibre (Jahn, 1998). A 100 grams of dried leaves of moringa tree contain about 9.8 g of protein and of calcium and the amounts obtained in this research were slightly less than those values as protein was 9.1 grams and calcium was 460 mg which is within the range and this proved that the moringa leaves contain high protein and calcium as claimed in literature (Fuglie, 2002).

Suggestions can safely be made to recommend the moringa as a good source of protein and calcium.

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