**MINUTES OF STATE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH JULY 2021 AT STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CROSS RIVER STATE**

**1.0 ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Josephat O Ogar – State Statistician General/Chairman SCFN

Mgbe Benedette Nsor – Nutrition Desk Officer MOA

Ewa Ayei Okoi – Desk officer –Ministry of Humanity and Social Welfare

Enyim Sally Enyim – Director Community Health Services -CRSPHCDA

Igwe Christopher Igwe – Director PRS –CRSPHCDA

Agbor Njar Isong – UNICEF Desk Officer –SUBEB

Agim Joseph A- Director of Planning –CRS Planning Commission

Ebase Ignatius Anu – Head of Admin –CRS Planning Commission

Ene Ita – UNICEF Desk Officer CRBC Radio/TV

Catherine James – Deputy Director post harvest/ nutrition –CRADP

Ekpenyong Anita A – Desk Officer SOMTEC –MOI&O

Dr. Grace Essien - CCCRN ( Centre for Clinical Care and Clinical Research )

Mary - Nutrition International (NI)

Adie Regina A - SNO Secretary SCFN

**2.0 OPENING PRAYER**

The meeting started with an opening prayer said by Mr Agbor Njah of SUBEB at 10.15am

**2.1 AGENDA**

The meeting agenda was read by Dr. Ogar to include :

Opening Prayer

Overview of SCFN for the benefits of new members

Presentation of meeting Objectives

Goodwill messages from partners and MDAs

Major Challenges

Next step, Closing Remarks and Prayers

**2.2 ABSENTEES** = Representatives from, SMOH, AG’s Office, Academia, CSOs

3.**0 APOLOGY** -No apology was received

**4.0 READING AND ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES/ OBSERVATION AND ADOPTION**

There was no previous meeting minutes therefore there was no reading and adoption of previous minutes. However the Chairman after presenting the meeting agenda called for it adoption and Mr. Joseph Agim quickly moved for the adoption with Mr. Agbor as the seconder of the motion

**5.0** **OVERVIEW OF SCFN**

The Chairman started the presentation of the overview with a call for self introduction of members present. That was done as directed

Dr. Ogar told the meeting that nutrition is central to life and so everyone present has a role to play in improving it. He said that although the SCFN was created in the early 2000, it was reconstituted and inaugurated in 20th October 2010.with the State Planning Commission as the secretariat. He enumerated member MDAs to include, Agriculture, Education, Finance, Ministry of Health, SPC, Women Affair, s Budget, SBS, Accountants General Office, The academia, Media, CSOs, Private sector. According to him, the main mandate of the SCFN was to develop policy on Food and Nutrition, provide strategies for implementation of policies and programmes on Food and Nutrition for the State. However, he said that before the period of breakdown of activities by SCFN, the Committee was working with the National policy as it was yet to domesticate the policy in the State

**5.1** The Chairman enumerated the achievements made by the Committee before now to include:

Promotion of Early initiation of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF), Introduction of complementary feeding in the Health Care System through the 1-6-24 formula developed by Alive & Thrive partner, sensitization of Health Care Professionals on Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitute( BMS ) , which was partnered with NAFDAC to discourage BMS advertisement, extension of Maternity leave for female civil servants from the current 4mths in the Public Service Rule to Six months to encourage breastfeeding workers to adopt Exclusive Breastfeeding for six months

**5.2 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2022**

The Chairman listed the following activities as activities he wants the SCFN to undertake for 2022

Develop State Nutrition Policy

Advocate for the strengthening of LGACFN

Reactivation of Breastfeeding Support Groups in the Communities across the State

Build capacity of Health Care Workers and Community groups on EBF

Production of IEC Materials on EBF and Development of jingles in English and local languages

Conduct State and LGA level quarterly meetings

Ensure through advocacy a legislation for the extension of maternity leave from 4mths to six months in the CRSHA

Facilitate the establishment of Crèches in all office secretariats

Create Media awareness and sensitization on EBF and the ills of malnutrition

Facilitate the production and distribution of Vitamin A Cassava, Yellow Maize, Orange Flesh Potato and their Value Chain

Facilitate the training of 300 farmers on the cultivation and processing of hybrid crops

**6.0 PRESENTATION OF MEETING OBJECTIVES**

The secretary Mrs Regina Adie gave the following as the Objectives for the meeting

To strengthen the SCFN

To review activities of the Committee in the State looking at the challenges and way forward

To review 2021 work plan and to begin the process of developing 2022 which will be harmonized from the different MDAs

Suggestions and plans for sustainable meetings

**7.0 PRESENTATION OF GOODWILL MESSAGES**

Good will messages were presented by two partners namely:

Centre for Clinical Care and Clinical Research Nigeria (CCCRN), and Nutrition International (NI). They both expressed their excitement for the restoration/reviving of SCFN after not seating for a whole year and pledge their continuous support to the Committee in other to take Food and Nutrition to the height it deserves. They noted that Food and Nutrition is key to the Socio- Economic development and Growth of Nigeria in general and Cross River State in particular

**8.0 CHALLENGES**

Lack of equipment and furniture in SCFN secretariat

Non- release of budget funds for activities and programmes of the SCFN

Non domestication of Food and Nutrition Policy in the State

**9.0 NEXT STEP**

To pay advocacy to HOS/Commission, Ministry of Local Government Affairs

Do a memo to partners to support the domestication of Food and Nutrition Policy

Develop 2022 work plan /Budget

Pay advocacy to CRSHA for maternity leave extension

**10.0 CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chairman and the Secretary thanked the two partners for their support by attending the meeting and particularly CCCRN for accepting to fund the meeting even within a very short notice

The Chairman appealed to NI to also indicate their readiness to fund the next meeting. He also thanked representatives of the MDAs present and urge them to be prepared to respond to calls for meetings even emergency meeting as may be necessary.

The meeting came to close at 3:15pm with a closing prayer

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| **Dr. Josephat O Ogar**  State Statistician General/Chairman SCFN | **Adie Regina A**  SNO Secretary SCFN |