

Review of: "Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Comprehensive Literature Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Enhancing Veterinary Services for Smallholder Farmers in Zimbabwe: A Comprehensive Literature Review

The paper argues that veterinary services are critical for successful smallholder livestock production in Zimbabwe. This is particularly important as the sector holds the greatest number of livestock population in the country and more after the land reform programme implemented in the 2000s. To do so the authors relied mainly on review of secondary literature. I do not think the paper makes much of the contribution as it stands. That is not to say I do not believe that it could so in the future. Issues to consider in improving the paper

Style/Structure

The research questions guiding the paper were not precisely stated, the gaps in the literature and the particular contribution to knowledge apart from stating that it seeks to help in the provision of veterinary services in the country for the benefit of the smallholder livestock producers.

What does the literature tell us about veterinary service provision in Zimbabwe? Many of the cited literature is more than 10 years, 2014 and the like. More recent literature might help provide the current picture of the situation particularly in a paper relying solely on secondary review of literature.

I would strongly suggest to follow the standard logic of a research paper. This will be much easier once you have spelled out your precise research question and independent/dependent variables.

What is the structure of public veterinary service provision in Zimbabwe? The disease reporting system in place and so on? What are the major weaknesses in the structure facing which the paper can make a contribution? In my interviews with staff at DVS, they suggested a stand-alone Ministry Veterinary Services rather than being subsumed under the Ministry of Agriculture where crop farming tends to be receiving much support as opposed to animal farming. These might be the recommendations at policy level.

The authors must try to be explicit in their recommendations e.g. at policy level; at practice level

Argument

The key arguments the authors are making have not been made explicit. As the paper stands it is just a discussion of veterinary services and smallholder livestock production in Zimbabwe. Following suggestions above would help improve

the quality and contribution of the paper.

Research Design

This should have its own section and justify your selection. I did not see it in the paper.

Justification especially when is a hands-on service

Argument

See above. Explicitly state the key arguments the papers is making and its areas of contribution

Findings

Your key findings from the literature review are scattered in the paper. Try to bring them in one section from where you can provide your recommendations.