

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.

Reviewer's comment:

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

Dear QEIOS editorial team;

First of all, let me experience my gratitude for being given an opportunity to review and comment on this article. It is a good article addressing an issue that is pressing in most sub-Saharan countries. The transition from colonial governance of veterinary structures and systems to the current post independence systems has been prolonged and protracting in most of these countries.

However, I have the following comments that I feel can help improve the article;

1. The use of the terms 'Paravets', 'para-professionals' and 'Veterinary Extension Workers' without defining them at the beginning, is somehow miss confusing. In my case, I find them synonymous. If my understanding is correct, it is better a single term is used for clarity's sake. If they mean different things, then definitions have to be provided when each term is introduced.
2. There is need to give a clear current Department of Veterinary Service's structure and operations in Zimbabwe so that the leader can appreciate the discussed gaps. For instance, it is reported that there is lack of legal recognition and clearly defined roles of paravets; which is a set-up different to what is common in some of the countries within the region.
3. It is my opinion that this literature review could have looked at other veterinary structures in in the region and compare/contrast them with the Zimbabwe DVS. This could improve understanding of the content of discussion for non Zimbabwean readers and also support the identified gaps as well as the viability of the recommendations made.
4. Though the article is a comprehensive literature review, thus unlike a systematic review; the approach of data collection could have been shared so that readers are able evaluate the possibility of search and reporting biases.