

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.

The above topic is particularly relevant to smallholders in developing nations. It discusses in detail the constraints they face in gaining access to veterinary services and the actors involved in carrying out these services in Zimbabwe.

Therefore, the topic is important, and I recommend it for publication with improvements in a few parts to make it more appealing to the reader.

- 1. The introduction could benefit from a more logical organization and progression of concepts Consider reorganizing the paragraphs so that they follow a logical order, such as beginning with the general context and significance of the problem, then delving into specific challenges and voids, and concluding with the aims and objectives of the literature review.
- 2. On the organization, I would suggest that the keywords come immediately after the abstract and put them in an alphabetical order
- 3. The authors identified the sale of counterfeit and substandard veterinary products as a challenge for smallholder farmers and said that the challenge can be overcome by considering an effective veterinary system that will ensure the supply of quality veterinary drugs and surcharge those who sell substandard drugs. The remedy sounds good, but it could be enhanced by giving examples of countries that have used such policies and were successful.
- 4. The article mentions the need for a legislative framework and the absence of legal recognition for para vets, but it does not go into detail on the specific policy and regulatory difficulties that impede the provision of veterinary services. I would suggest the authors consider looking into the currently existing policies or legal framework and their effectiveness. this will provide comprehensive information on how this can be improved.
- 5. Financial scarcity and the high cost of private veterinary services are major factors affecting smallholders' access to veterinary services. A more in-depth analysis of the financial challenges and potential strategies for addressing them would enhance the discussion.
- 6. Smallholder farmers have different definitions depending on the study and country. I would suggest the authors define "smallholder farmers in this context. This is very crucial for the readers.
- 7. The article primarily focuses on the challenges and shortcomings of the existing veterinary services system in Zimbabwe. While it briefly mentions the potential roles of the private sector, community animal health workers, and ethnoveterinary practitioners, it does not provide a balanced assessment of their contributions and limitations. I would suggest the author discuss the role of each actor and the possibility of collaboration among them.
- 8. There are a number of citations that need to be included in the paper.



9. Under human health protection in the smallholder sector section," It is worth noting that zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans. By consuming meat from animals that have not undergone proper inspection and slaughter procedures, individuals increase their risk of contracting zoonotic infections." If all the bulleted suggestions were recommended by Njogu & Mulei (2015), then I would suggest you begin the statement as below.