

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

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An interesting article. But, in brief, the article missed a key discussion point, essential in the dialogue with policymakers. This concerns the differentiation between public and private goods, where the first (such as vaccination against the main contagious diseases with a high risk of spilling over to others, food safety, policy development) are the responsibility of the public sector. The so-called private goods (clinical services, other vaccinations and most trade in pharmaceutical products) can be entrusted to the private sector. Within the public sector some of the tasks mentioned above can be subcontracted with adequate compensation to commercial agents, under a plan so-called mandat sanitair. This was also the focus of the SAPs, and not to cut budget of VS as the article seems to imply. There is a wealth of earlier literature on this subject (see for example Umali, Feder and de Haan) to find on the internet. It is still highly relevant.