

Review of: "Factors Influencing Smallholder Farmers' Preference for Veterinary Services Providers in Zimbabwe"

Jethro Zuwarimwe¹

¹ University of Venda

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper can be accepted for publication as it has significant contributions to make. It is also well written but the following points need to be considered:

1. In paragraph 1 there is need to support the statements with evidence or literature just like in paragraph 2 and 3 of the introduction
2. Background. There is need to supply some sort of evidence of the quantities of livestock losses due to disease outbreaks as well as perhaps evidence of the main veterinary issues being faced by the farmers.
3. It would have been more interesting should the writers provided organizational structure of the service providers within the veterinary sector for smallholder livestock farmers. This may include capacity levels and coverage as well as the implication of the national economic dynamics or growing numbers of the livestock population.
4. You may consider giving evidence to qualify "low levels of pvt sector investments as well as high fixed costs". Are we saying this is limited to pvt sector alone not public sector services providers and if so why?
5. Perhaps consider the national threshold needed to provide particular level of services. Consider whether the correct term is high transaction cost or just use high cost of providing the service as these terms may not be used interchangeably.
6. Perhaps you need to summarise service provision model currently being used and whether the assumptions of payment level by farmers and the viability.
7. What is the population size for the study as well as out of how many AHMCs were selected. Consider including figures of the diverse veterinary service providers - public, pvt and community based. What was the range of the villages that participated given that you said the minimum was 4 villages per AHMCs.
8. Who were the respondents in your study and what was the basis? One may be a household head but not responsible for day to day management of the livestock.
9. You indicated that for the survey 59.2% were male and 40.8% were female and for the FGD 55 were male and 51 were female. question is were they from the same farmers or what? Would you consider to succinctly differentiate preference of particular service between male and female farmers or by livestock herd size whether they mattered?
10. Consider pulling out major findings in line with your objectives and rank them in terms of priority.
11. In terms of the discussions consider also to steep your own within the broad literature as to how does your own findings compare with findings elsewhere. You may also consider pulling out the key findings to inform the key conclusion in line with the specific objectives.

