

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you as we want to submit the article “Gendered Perceptions in Maize Supply Chains: Evidence from Uganda” to your journal.

Faced with imperfect information, how value chain actors perceive each other is an important determinant of its structure and performance. Inaccurate perceptions may result in inefficient value chains and systematic bias in perceptions may affect inclusiveness. In a case study on perceptions in Ugandan maize supply chains, a random sample of farmers were asked to rate upstream and downstream value chain actors-agro-input dealers, traders and processors-on a set of important attributes-ease of access, quality of services rendered, price competitiveness, and overall reputation. These value chain actors were then tracked and asked to assess themselves on the same set of attributes. We find that input dealers, traders and processors assess themselves more favourably than how farmers perceive them to be. We also zoom in on heterogeneity in perceptions related to gender and find that for self-assessments, the gender of the value chain actor does not matter. However, the difference between how actors assess themselves and how farmers perceive them is larger for male than for female farmers, as female farmers appear to rate dealers, traders and processors significantly higher in several dimensions. The gender of the actor being rated does not affect the rating they get, and gender-based homophily among women is not present in rating behaviour.

We appreciate the growing interest of your journal in gender-based issues overtime and thus, we believe that our article also fits into the goals of the journal focusing on recent policy debates and practical issues in the economies around the world. With the hope that you will also see a similar potential in our article as us for your journal, we would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Kind Regards,  
Bjorn and Anusha