

Highlights

- Inaccurate or biased perceptions may result in inefficient value chains and may affect inclusiveness.
- In order to measure perceptions, a random sample of Ugandan maize farmers were asked to rate agro-input dealers, traders and processors on a set of important attributes and then these value chain actors were asked to assess themselves.
- This study looks at the alignment between farmer ratings and self-ratings, systematic difference between male and female farmers' ratings, gender-related differences in self-ratings, differences in ratings because of actor's gender and gender-based homophily among women.
- Findings supporting the hypotheses include higher self-ratings compared to farmers' ratings and larger difference between self-ratings and farmers' ratings for male than for female farmers as female farmers rate higher for several attributes.
- Policy interventions that reduce gender bias and the gap between actor self-assessments and farmer ratings can increase value chain efficiency.

Summary

An investigation of Ugandan maize farmers' perceptions about input and service providers and the perceptions of these actors about themselves (self-ratings) yielded that gender may affect inclusiveness of value chains. Policy interventions that reduce gender bias and the gap between actor self-ratings and farmer ratings can increase value chain efficiency.