



Value-Added Processing Centres in Rural Tanzania: Impacts on Livestock Value Chains and Food Security Stability

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Abstract

Value-added processing centers (VAPCs) are emerging as critical infrastructure in rural Tanzania's livestock value chain, aiming to enhance productivity and stability. A mixed-method approach was employed, combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative insights through interviews and focus group discussions. Rural households that utilised VAPC services reported a \$10 increase in average monthly income compared to those without access ($n = 150$). The findings suggest that VAPCs significantly contribute to economic growth and improved food security among rural communities. Government policies should prioritise the expansion of VAPC services, particularly in underserved regions with high agricultural productivity potential. Value-Added Processing Centres, Smallholder Farmers, Livestock Value Chain, Food Security, Rural Development

Keywords: *Tanzania, Value-Added Processing Centres, Livestock Value Chains, Food Security, Rural Development, Mixed Methods, Agricultural Economics*

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