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Title: Synthesis of FVC assessments of upgrading strategies (ex-post and ex-ante impact assessments) and recommendations

- Combining participatory, qualitative and quantitative methods for impact assessment of food value chains: an integrated framework

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ABSTRACT

An impact assessment of food-securing upgrading strategies (UPS) can be performed to assess potential UPS effects at the local level. We developed an assessment framework that integrates the main components of the food value chain (FVC) - natural resources, food production, processing, marketing, and consumption. The framework provides a generic template in which different impact assessment approaches can be complementarily integrated and was tested for a study case in Tanzania. The framework employs a structured sequence of steps: (1) context analysis and the development of UPS, (2) the selection and application of assessment approaches and (3) the establishment of food security criteria and UPS effects. To illustrate the flexibility and use of the framework, the inputs of three different impact assessment approaches were considered. First, data from a household survey was applied to provide baseline information at the local level. Second, scientific knowledge was employed to systematically assess the selected UPS. Third, local stakeholder knowledge was considered to identify the local food security constraints and preferences and provide assessments of potential UPS effects.

The Framework for Participatory Impact Assessment (FoPIA) approach was utilized to conduct local focus group discussions, the Scaling Up Assessment Tool for Food Security (Scala-FS) was employed to gather scientific knowledge about specific UPS impacts. Based on the preliminary results of the framework testing, diverse stakeholder participation is essential for considering local preferences and to engage stakeholders in the assessment process, whereas scientific knowledge and monitoring data are needed to complement the “local picture” with more quantifiable results. The strengths and shortcomings of the framework are also discussed.