

ABSTRACT

The dairy sector in Kenya is an economically important sector providing employment and a source of income value chain actors. Although demand for milk and dairy products is high and increasing, sector growth is constrained by milk quality issues stemming from physical-chemical composition, microbial contamination and adulteration which pose a risk to human health. The objectives of this research were to identify which stakeholders in the Kenyan dairy sector play a role in determining milk quality, and to explore whether roles are affected by power relationships between stakeholders. The study used Social Network Analysis (SNA), and employed process Netmap, to examine the roles of, and relationships between dairy sector stakeholders, and the impact of actual and perceived power on the quality of milk and dairy products traded in formal and informal dairy value chains in Nakuru county Kenya. Results show that the dairy sector in Nakuru county is a multi-layered network of stakeholders, encompassing stakeholders from both the formal and informal dairy value chains. Farmers, cooperatives and processors play a key role in determining the quality of milk and dairy products, while cooperatives, processors, government agencies exert influence over milk quality as the most powerful stakeholders in the network. Stakeholder relationships in the formal value chain are more conducive to the enforcement of regulation and standards, and thus the production of high quality milk and dairy products, than those in the informal value chain.