**Introduction**

Transnational food supply chains are particularly vulnerable to crises

The disruption of food supply chains due to crises hit the farmers the most severely

Supply chains need to become more resilient and sustainable in order to cope with disruptions

Organic certification is seen as one step towards more sustainable supply chains

Good relationships are key both along supply chains and for the successful implementation of certifications

This study examines more closely the view of the sub-suppliers as their important role had been neglected so far

**Objective**

Analyzing the effect of relationship quality between the buying company and sub-suppliers on the understanding of organic farming principles by smallholder cocoa farmers

**Methods**

- Semi-structured qualitative interviews with 20 smallholder farmers in Central Uganda (Mukono district) from January to February 2020 as well as with 3 key actors along the supply chain
- Qualitative content analysis based on relevant key indicators for high-quality relationships derived from literature

**Results**

- There is a relation between the motivation and awareness of organic agriculture and relationship quality
- There is no interrelation between a comprehensive understanding of organic principles and the relationship quality
- There is no link between the relationship quality and the successful implementation of the organic principles

**Conclusion**

- The farmer group which was more closely involved with their indirect buyer were more aware of organic agriculture and recognized more benefits
- In order to implement organic agriculture successfully at producer level it needs more than good relationships: knowledge through more specific trainings and adequate tools

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