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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS
The value chain approach in animal and public health, focus on present applications and challenges

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The value chain (VC) is a major operational concept of socio-economic analysis at meso level. It is widely mobilised in development practice but is still undergoing conceptual and practical refining, mainly to take account of sustainability in all its dimensions. In a few words, VC refers to the full set of actors, activities (technical or economic functions), and flows (material or immaterial) involved in the provision of a good or service on a market. In the last decade, this concept has been promoted as a thread guiding the analysis and improvement of animal health systems. In particular, the emergence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which acted as a triggering event in the building and promotion of the One Health approach, has also been the occasion of an interdisciplinary application of VC to animal health. These efforts brought at the forefront participatory investigation methods in the socio-economic analysis of health systems. Participatory methods, using qualitative and quantitative data, fully valorise field actors' knowledge and involvement, hence facilitating the transdisciplinary work needed for analysis and more effective action. They fit into an adaptive and action-oriented strategy, fostering stakeholders' participation. Recent research on surveillance systems in South-East Asia merged VC and participatory approaches to develop innovative tools for analysing constraints to animal health surveillance. On-going interventions for HPAI control as well as the prevention of other emerging zoonotic risks in Africa are presently building on this VC framework to develop strategies for its application at national and regional scales. Based on the latter experiences, this communication aims at taking stock of VC applications to animal health systems, reviewing the lessons learnt, opportunities and limits of the approach, as well as the practical challenges of its application on a wider scale and its full insertion in the OH approach.