



WAAVP-AN Newsletter

Message from the Co-chairs

We're excited to share the latest edition of the WAAVP-AN biannual e-newsletter, highlighting our milestones and progress in 2025. The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology – Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) has made significant strides in tackling the unique challenges and seizing the opportunities in veterinary parasitology across the African continent.

In June 2024, we officially launched WAAVP-AN in Cotonou, Benin, under the theme "Advancing Veterinary Parasitology in Africa for Enhanced Control of Animal Parasitic Diseases." This event marked a pivotal moment, bringing together experts from across Africa and beyond to share knowledge and strategies to reduce the economic and health impacts of animal parasites.

Our mission remains steadfast to promote cutting-edge research and innovation in veterinary parasitology, strengthen the

capacity of professionals and institutions in animal disease management, facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing within the community, and advocate for advancing veterinary parasitology for improved animal and public health.

Community engagement continues to be at the heart of our efforts. By involving stakeholders at all levels, we aim to address the most pressing challenges in animal disease control and develop practical, context-specific solutions. Your participation in WAAVP-AN is invaluable, and together, we can drive meaningful changes and make a lasting impact on the health of animals and people across the continent.

We look forward to your continued support and collaboration as we advance veterinary parasitology in Africa.

Dr. Patrick Vudriko and Dr. Ayodele Majekodunmi (Co-chairs, WAAVP-AN)

Dr. Patrick Vudriko



Dr. Ayodele Majekodunmi





Launch of WAAVP-AN in Cotonou, Benin

The launch of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology African Network (WAAVP-AN) on June 26-27 in Cotonou, Benin, marked a significant milestone in the fight against animal parasites in Africa.

The event was officially launched by Hon. Gaston Dossouhoui, Benin's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. It featured keynote addresses from renowned experts, including Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary (ACBF), Dr. Patrick Vudriko and Dr. Ayodele Majekodunmi, Co-chairs of WAAVP-AN, Dr. Hassane Adakal from the Regional Animal Health Centre, Prof. Banie Penzhorn from the University of Pretoria and Prof. David Odongo from the University of Nairobi.

The speakers emphasized the urgent need for a cross-border approach to combat animal parasites, highlighting the network's crucial role in advancing veterinary parasitology in Africa. This launch brought together individuals and institutions working towards better control of animal parasitic diseases, advancement of study and training, and promotion of sustainable livestock production in Africa. It also featured the first call for proposals for the WAAVP-AN grants, which aimed to support projects that address key priority areas in Veterinary Parasitology within the African continent.

View some photos of participants here: <https://bit.ly/3YSgZcx>.

Celebrating One Year of Advancing Parasitology Across the Continent

26–27 June 2025 marked one year since the official launch of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology – Africa Network (WAAVP-AN), a milestone that calls for both celebration and reflection.

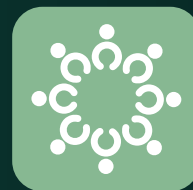
Over the past 12 months, WAAVP-AN has rapidly evolved from an ambitious idea into a vibrant, inclusive platform bringing

together veterinary parasitology professionals, researchers, policymakers, and students from across Africa and beyond. Guided by its mission to advance the science and practice of parasitology in support of animal and public health, the network has already made meaningful contributions to research, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

Our First Year: Highlights and Achievements



Innovation and Support: Through the inaugural WAAVP-AN Innovations and Capacity Building Grants, the network funded ten groundbreaking research projects tackling region-specific parasitic challenges.



Community Building: WAAVP-AN created collaborative spaces, including webinars, workshops, and a Community of Practice, promoting dialogue and peer learning.



Empowering Early Career Professionals: Dedicated efforts have been made to amplify the voices of emerging researchers through mentorship, skills development and funding opportunities.



Global Recognition: WAAVP-AN has positioned African perspectives and leadership at the centre of international parasitology conversations, fostering equity and representation in global health.

A Word of Gratitude

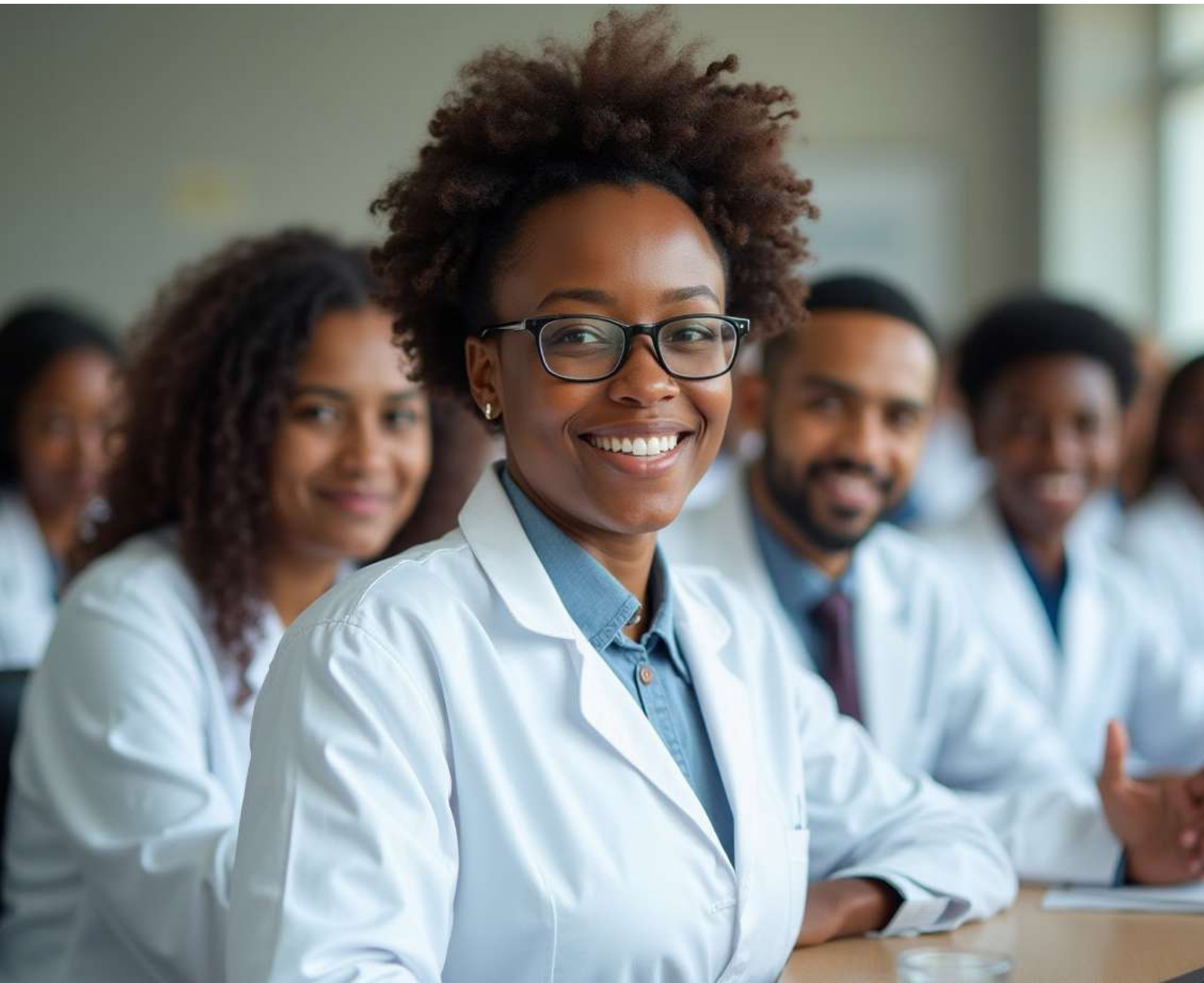
This milestone would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our, Steering Committee, Secretariat, Stakeholders, and the vibrant community that has embraced the network's mission. Your belief in the power of science, partnership, and local action has propelled WAAVP-AN forward.

Looking Ahead

As we enter our second year, we are excited to build on this momentum. We have formally launched our Community of Practice to enhance cross-country collaborations, and continue creating opportunities for knowledge-sharing and capacity development.

Together, we are building a future where veterinary parasitology is recognized as a central pillar of animal and public health across Africa.

Stay connected, stay engaged and thank you for being part of the WAAVP-AN story.



Community of Practice (CoP)

The Community of Practice is a collaborative platform that will bring together professionals, researchers, and stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise, and experiences in veterinary parasitology. The CoP aims to foster a culture of continuous learning, innovation, and collaboration, ultimately contributing to the network's improvement and growth.

Plan of activities for the WAAVP-AN Community of Practice (CoP)

- i. Information webinars on WAAVP-AN grants
- ii. CoP launch & welcome webinar
- iii. Inaugural Webinar on WAAVP-AN
- iv. Online Discussion Forums
- v. Meet and chat hour
- vi. Best Practices of parasite management



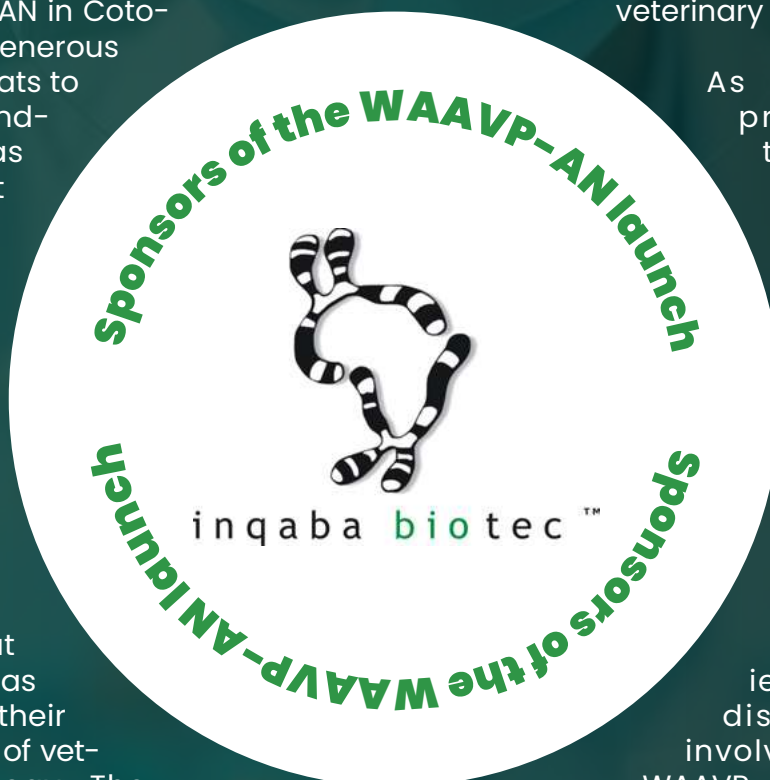
Inqaba Biotec

Inqaba Biotec's commitment to fostering innovation and capacity building in the field of veterinary parasitology was prominently displayed during the launch of WAAVP-AN in Cotonou, Benin. Their generous donation of lab coats to the students attending the launch was a gesture that they support the next generation of veterinary professionals, contributing to their education and success.

Those lab coats will not only be used by the students during their research work but also inspire them as they embark on their journey in the field of veterinary parasitology. The network was extremely grateful for this support.

Additionally, the significant role Inqaba played during the landmark event was a

testament to its ongoing efforts to collaborate with key stakeholders in the scientific community, drive progress, and promote sustainable solutions in veterinary parasitology.



As a pioneer in providing cutting-edge genomic services, Inqaba Biotec continues to empower researchers and institutions across Africa with the tools and knowledge needed to push the boundaries of scientific discovery. Their involvement in the WAAVP-AN launch highlights their leadership in the field and their unwavering commitment to advancing veterinary science on the continent.

One-on-one with Lukman Arowaramimo

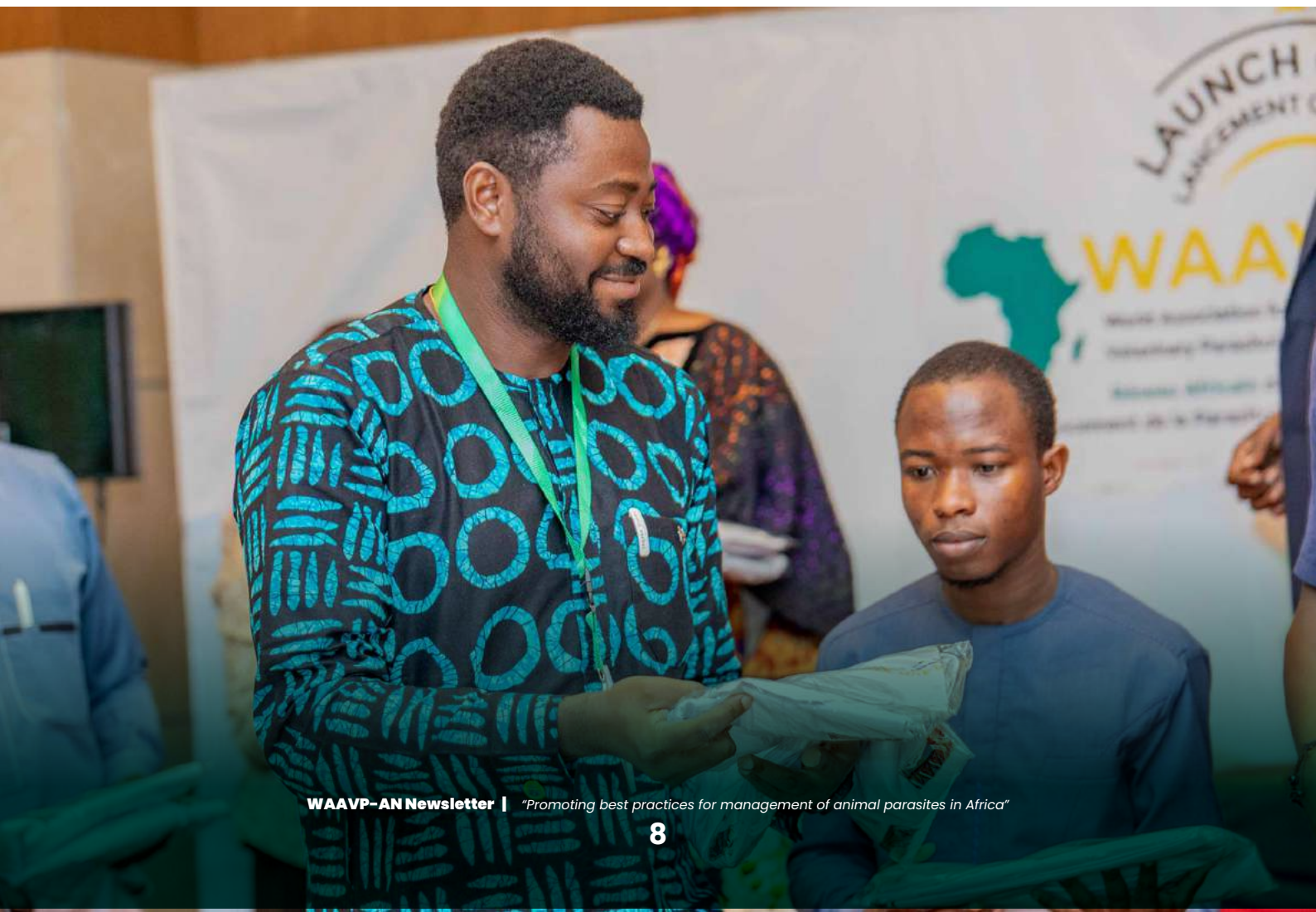
Managing Director from Inqaba Biotech

The launch was what one would expect of such an event as it had funders, beneficiaries, corporate and non-corporate supporters, among others,, in one room, providing specific insight and ideating over the network's success. Overall, the event was well-planned and positively received by Inqaba Biotech.

In addition to attaining our company's vision and mission of supporting science development in Africa, it was an opportunity for us to interact with the scientific community and get a good idea of the needs of network members and how

Inqaba Biotech could support their respective projects.

Inqaba envisions future collaborations with WAAVP-AN. First, we could provide cash and/or material support for the network meetings. Second, we could offer some sort of network discount for individual and institutional members who are looking to apply genomics to their respective projects. Based on our network and reach across Africa, we could also help network members connect with potential collaborators in other regions of the continent.



2025 Second Call for Proposals Launched in July

The World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) successfully launched its Second Call for Proposals on the 15th of July 2025. This followed the successful funding and implementation of ten impactful projects under the first call, reaffirming WAAVP-AN's commitment to advancing veterinary parasitology across the continent.

WAAVP-AN, an umbrella network working to improve the control of parasitic diseases in animals and to strengthen the practice of veterinary parasitology in Africa, has continued to support projects under key thematic areas, including:



Socio-economic
impacts of veterinary
parasites



Capacity building
in veterinary
parasitology



Epidemiology,
distribution, and
abundance of
animal parasites



Novel diagnostics
and therapeutics

Each selected project is eligible for up to US\$50,000 in funding. Proposals must be led by legally recognized institutions or organizations based in Africa. Priority is given to projects that foster cross-border collaboration, reflecting the network's commitment to regional integration and shared learning.

Ahead of this second call, the Network conducted a comprehensive review of the first funding round, applying lessons learned to strengthen and streamline the grants management process. This included enhancements to improve the accessibility and efficiency of both the application and implementation phases for grantees.

Additionally, WAAVP-AN organized capacity-building workshops for the initial cohort of grantees, focusing on essential areas such as financial procedures, procurement, and monitoring and evaluation. These trainings laid a solid foundation for successful project implementation and reporting.

The Second Call for Proposals builds on this momentum, providing a valuable opportunity for researchers, institutions, and networks to contribute to the fight against animal and zoonotic parasites in Africa through innovative, collaborative, and evidence-based approaches.

More details, including eligibility criteria and application guidelines, were made available following the launch.

Participation in Key International Conferences



The WAAVP Africa Network is preparing to take part in the upcoming International Congress on Parasites of Wildlife in conjunction with the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (ICOPW-PARSA) conference in South Africa. It's a major scientific meeting where researchers, professionals and key stakeholders gather to share the latest findings on parasites of wildlife and livestock as well as zoonotic parasites while promoting collaboration, education, and innovation in veterinary parasitology.

This is an important opportunity to reinforce the network's presence in Africa and strengthen regional and global partnerships. The network will present its work, offering a valuable platform to showcase progress, share lessons, and explore potential collaborations.

Participation in this event forms part of the network's broader strategy to enhance its global visibility and partnership engagements. These efforts reflect the growing ambition to position the WAAVP - Africa Network as a leading voice in veterinary parasitology, both within Africa and on the global stage.



Preparations to Make an Impact at the 30th WAAVP Biennial Conference in Brazil

As the global veterinary parasitology community prepares to gather at the 30th WAAVP Biennial Conference in Curitiba, Brazil this August, the WAAVP Africa Network (WAAVP-AN) is gearing up for an active and strategic presence at this landmark event. The WAAVP Conference (World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology) is an international event that brings together professionals and researchers in the field of veterinary parasitology from around the world. The association aims to promote scientific advancement, research and collaboration in the field of veterinary parasitology to improve animal and human health.

At these conferences, participants share recent research, discuss technological advances, exchange experiences, and collaborate on projects to address issues related to parasites in the wild, and aquatic

animals. WAAVP conferences typically cover a wide range of topics, including epidemiology, parasite control, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of parasitic diseases in animals. The conference provides a pivotal opportunity for WAAVP-AN to showcase Africa's leadership, challenges, and innovations in parasitology.

With the countdown to the conference well underway, WAAVP-AN continues to engage partners, and share updates. As the world converges to discuss the role of parasites in a sustainable future, WAAVP-AN remains committed to ensuring that Africa's voice, science, and solutions are well represented.

Stay tuned to WAAVP-AN's social media and website for updates, featured member highlights, and real-time coverage from Brazil!

About the sponsors

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the generous sponsors whose support was instrumental in the successful launch of WAAVPAN in Cotonou, Benin. Your invaluable contributions brought this vision to life and laid a strong foundation for a transformative platform in veterinary parasitology across Africa. Your steadfast commitment to innovation, capacity building, and collaboration inspires us, and we look forward to building on this momentum together in 2025 and beyond.



Ceva Santé Animale

Ceva Santé Animale

Ceva Santé Animale is a global veterinary health company focused on developing and providing innovative solutions to improve animal health and productivity. It offers a comprehensive range of products, including vaccines, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostic tools for livestock and companion animals. Ceva's mission is to support animal welfare and enhance the efficiency of veterinary care through cutting-edge technologies, research, and a commitment to delivering high-quality, practical solutions that address the diverse needs of the animal health industry.



clinglobal

Clinglobal

Clinglobal majors in providing advanced technical solutions and support for the agricultural and veterinary sectors. They focus on enhancing animal health through innovative veterinary services and diagnostics, improving agricultural productivity with cutting-edge technology, and offering consulting and training to optimize practices. They aim to drive efficiency and sustainability in these industries by delivering expert solutions and fostering technological advancements.

GALVmed

Protecting Livestock – Improving Human Lives

GALVmed

GALVmed (Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines) is an organization dedicated to improving livestock health and productivity in developing countries by providing essential veterinary medicines and vaccines. They work to enhance access to quality veterinary products, support developing and distributing innovative health solutions, and strengthening veterinary services to combat livestock diseases. They aim to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods by advancing animal health and ensuring access to sustainable veterinary care for farmers and communities.

Events Held

We were thrilled to host a webinar introducing the WAAVP-AN Community of Practice (CoP) on the 15th of July 2025. The session offered an in-depth overview of the CoP, its goals, and opportunities for engagement.

Participants learned how to get involved and contribute to this growing platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and professional development in veterinary parasitology across Africa.

Details about the webinar, including the time and access link, were shared in advance on our social media platforms.

Stay connected as we continue to grow the CoP and share upcoming activities and opportunities!

Social Media Handles and Website

Engage with us online to access updates on groundbreaking research, funding opportunities, and events shaping this field's future. Help us grow this vibrant community by sharing our content, joining the conversation, and spreading the word. Together, we can make a more significant impact on the fight against animal parasitic diseases in Africa.



<https://bit.ly/WAAVPANFacebook>



<https://bit.ly/WAAVPANX>



<https://bit.ly/WAAVPANLinkedIn>



<https://www.waavpafrica.org/>



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Community of Practice Forum**



**WAAVP-AN Online
Membership Registration**