



REPORT ON MY PARTICIPATION ON THE WAAVP 2023 CONFERENCE

My name is Mwemezi Kabululu, a researcher from Tanzania, currently working for Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI). From 20th to 24th August 2023, I had an opportunity to attend the 29th edition of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) conference, which took place at Leela Palace, Chennai, India. This followed my successful application for a travel grant from the WAAVP African foundation. I am very grateful for the support offered by WAAVP AF, without which it would not have been possible for me to attend this conference; and I feel honoured to be among the eight awardees for the scholarships. This has been the first WAAVP conference that I have had an opportunity to attend and I must admit that it has been a memorable experience to me.

Firstly, the conference has been a great opportunity for me to get insights on the developments on different fields of veterinary parasitology. In addition, being a researcher, attending this conference served as a reminder to me, of the importance of research communication, as part of the research process. I also had an opportunity share my research findings through an oral presentation. My presentation was titled “Spatio-temporal changes in *Taenia solium* cysticercosis seroprevalence among pigs in the southern highlands of Tanzania”. The findings broaden our understanding of the epidemiology of a neglected zoonotic cestode - *Taenia solium* - in Tanzania, and in similar settings elsewhere. It was very useful to get some feedback and commentd from my fellow participants who attended my presentation.

Secondly, I feel privileged to be among the witnesses of the ‘birth’ of the WAAVP African Network, which aims at promoting and supporting a sustainable network of African scientists, researchers, funders, farmers and policy makers to address the challenges in veterinary parasitology in sub-Saharan Africa. The WAAVP Africa Network symposium which was held on the evening of 22nd August 2023 and marked the ‘birth’ of the network, provided prospects of the network in fostering veterinary parasitology in Africa.

Thirdly, I have been able to form some connections with other scientists, from different parts of the world. I expect these connections and contacts to be a basis for future collaborations on different research and development projects.

In conclusion, WAAVP conference 2023 has been an avenue to further my career as a veterinary parasitologist and a researcher. I am very much looking forward to an opportunity to attend coming WAAVP 2025 conference in Curitiba, Brazil. Many thanks again for the WAAVP AF for availing this opportunity to me.



Fig 1. Mwemezi Kabululu presenting his research findings during the 29th WAAVP conference in Chennai - India



Fig 2. Mwemezi Kabululu (left) together with fellow participants from Tanzania during the 29th WAAVP conference in Chennai - India