



My professional experience acquired at WAAVP

My name is Achille Sougrinoma OUEDRAOGO, currently completing my PhD thesis on ticks and tick-borne diseases at the faculty of veterinary medicine, University of Liège, Belgium. It is my second time to be awarded by the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) African Foundation Scholarship. It was a real chance and opportunity for me to participate again in the 28th WAAVP Conference at Dublin, Ireland.

The following is a brief report of my participation in this prestigious scientific meeting.

First, I shared some results of my PhD work through a poster presentation titled "Cattle ticks and associated tick-borne pathogens in Burkina Faso and Benin: first evidence of *Theileria velifera* and *Theileria annulata*". This communication attracted the attention of some other participants who certainly acquired new knowledge.

Second, I have attended many presentations on ticks and associated pathogens and on other subjects. I can honestly say that it was a real learning opportunity. Not only did I gain new knowledge, but it also revitalized my aspirations to have a successful career in the research world. It was an excellent experience to live especially for young researchers. I also discovered new approaches to present research results that I will certainly use.

Thirdly, for all the conferences I attend, one of my important goals is to establish new contacts with other participants from different parts of the world. This did not go as well for this conference as I participated virtually. However, this did not prevent me from establishing some contacts through the chat of WAAVP platform.

In conclusion, despite the constraints related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the organizers successfully adapted, allowing participants to interact through the WAAVP-2021 platform. Thanks to WAAVP African Foundation and to all the sponsors for what they are doing for young researchers.