

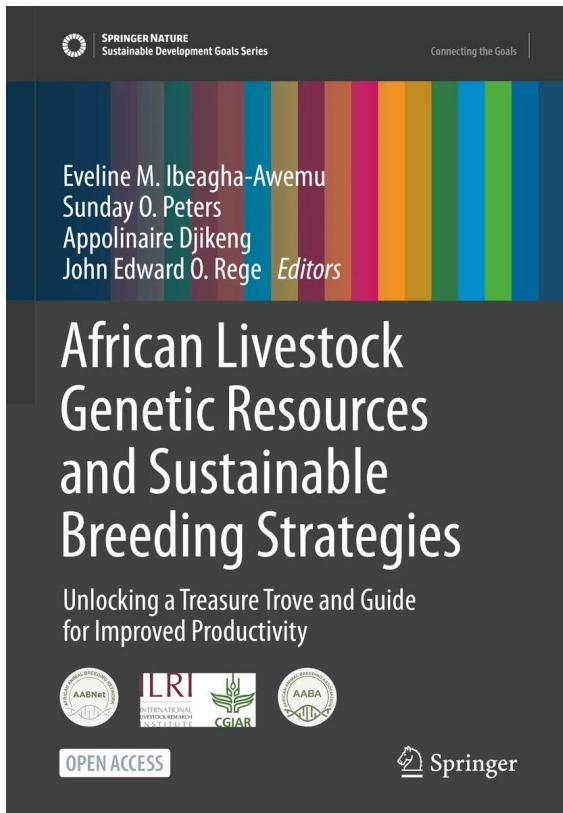


AGENDA

AFRICAN ANIMAL BREEDING NETWORK (AABNet) BOOK LAUNCH

Book Title

African Livestock Genetic Resources and Sustainable Breeding Strategies:
Unlocking a Treasure Trove and Guide for Improved Productivity



Venue

International Livestock Research Institute
(ILRI) Campus, Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Format: Hybrid

Date: February 20, 2026

Host: African Animal Breeding
Network (AABNet)

Background and Purpose

The African Animal Breeding Network (AABNet) brings together animal breeders, geneticists, and livestock professionals committed to advancing resilient, sustainable, and profitable livestock systems in Africa. Central to this mission is the recognition, conservation, and sustainable utilization of Africa's rich animal genetic resources (AnGR).

The book African Livestock Genetic Resources and Sustainable Breeding Strategies: Unlocking a Treasure Trove and Guide for Improved Productivity represents a landmark, Africa-led scholarly effort to consolidate knowledge on the characterization, conservation, and use of African livestock genetic resources. Developed by African scientists and partners and published as an open-access resource with support from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the book is intended to serve National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES), policymakers, researchers, students, development practitioners, and livestock producers across the continent.

The objective of this one-day event is to launch the book officially, showcase its key themes, honor outstanding contributions to animal genetic resources in Africa, and stimulate dialogue on strategies to improve livestock productivity through sustainable breeding and genetic innovations.

08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival, Registration, and Welcome Coffee

PART I: OPENING AND SCENE SETTING – FRAMING THE AABNet BOOK

Moderator: Prof. Ed Rege (*Emerge Centre for Innovations -Africa & Chair, AABNet Executive Committee*)

Introduction and Overview of the Book Launch Agenda and Objectives of the Day

09:11 – 09:30: The concept of the 'African Animal Breeding Network' and its potential in African Livestock development, including anticipated partnership with ILRI

Speaker: Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng (*Director General, International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI*)

09:31 – 09:50: The strategic importance of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) for food security, resilience, and livelihoods

Speaker: Prof. Mizeck Chagunda (*Director, Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health, CTLGH*)

09:51 – 10:10: The value of African-driven production knowledge: Lessons from past and current breed improvement initiatives

Speaker: Dr. Okeyo Mwai (*ILRI Emeritus Fellow: Former Program Leader for Livestock Genetics, Nutrition and Feed Resources (ILRI)*)

10:10 – 10:40 | Plenary Discussion

10:40 – 11:00 | Tea/Coffee Break and Networking

PART II: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOOK – KEY THEMES AND INSIGHTS

Session 2A: Diversity, Breeding Goals, and Emerging Technologies

Moderator: Prof. Sunday Peters (*Chair, Department of Animal Science, Berry College, Mount Berry, Georgia, USA*)

11:00 – 11:15: The Diversity of Africa's Animal Genetic Resources; Unique adaptive and productive traits across species and production systems

Speaker: Prof. Olivier Hannotte (*Principal Scientist, ILRI*)

11:15 – 11:35: Aligning breeding objectives with smallholder and commercial realities; Opportunities for multi-country genetic evaluation

Speaker: Prof. Raphael Mrode (*Principal Scientist, ILRI*)

11:35 – 11:55: Modern and Emerging Technologies for Livestock Improvement; Genomics, data analytics, and decision-support tools in African contexts.

Speaker: Dr. Victor Olori (*Senior Geneticist, Genetic Evaluation Manager, Aviagen Group*)

11:55 – 12:15: Plenary Discussion

Session 2B: Valuation, Conservation, and Management of AnGR

Moderator: Dr. Chinyere Ekine (*Scientist, Statistical Genetics and Genomics, ILRI*)

12:15 – 12:35: Economic Valuation of Africa's Animal Genetic Resources; Why valuation matters for policy and investment decisions

Speaker: Prof. Ed Rege (*Emerge Africa & Chair, AABNet Steering Committee*)

12:35 – 12:55: In-situ and Ex-situ Conservation Strategies; Practical approaches to safeguarding genetic diversity

Speaker: Dr. Isidore Houaga (*Livestock Statistical Genetics, ILRI*)

12:55 – 13:10: Plenary Discussion

13:10 – 14:10: Lunch Break and Networking

Session 2C: Capacity, Policy, and Institutional Strategies

Moderator: Prof. Mizeck Chagunda (*Director, CTLGH*)

14:10 – 14:30: Building Human and Institutional Capacity in Animal Breeding; Training, Mentorship, and Professional development needs

Speaker: Prof. Sammy Aggrey (*Distinguished Professor, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA*)

14:30 – 14:50: Policy and Governance Frameworks for Sustainable Use of AnGR; National, regional, and continental strategies

Speaker: Prof. Alexander Kahi (*Centre of Excellence for Livestock, Innovation and Business (CoELIB), Egerton University, Kenya*)

14:50 – 15:10: Economic and Institutional Models for African Livestock Genetic Improvement; Sustainable resourcing and partnership approaches

Speaker: Dr. Christian Tiambo (*Scientist -Lead Cellular Resources, Functional genomics Tools and Biotechnology, CTLGH/ILRI*)

15:10 – 15:25: Plenary Discussion

15:25 – 15:45: Tea/Coffee Break

PART III: RECOGNITION AND BOOK LAUNCH CEREMONY

Moderator: Dr. Siboniso Moyo, (*ILRI DDG- Research, Partnerships and Impact*)

15:45 – 16:00: Special Tribute: Honoring the Contribution of Dr. Mbah to Animal Genetic Resources in Africa

Speaker- Prof. Eveline Ibeagha-Awemu (*Senior Research Scientist, Genomics and Biotechnology, Agriculture and Agrifood, Canada*)

16:00 – 16:20: The AABNet Book Project: Origins, Process, and Lessons Learned From concept to publication

Speaker Prof. Eveline Ibeagha-Awemu (*Senior Research Scientist, Genomics and Biotechnology, Agriculture and Agrifood, Canada*)

16:20 – 16:35: Overview of the Book's Structure and Content; Key sections, audiences, and intended use

Speaker- Prof. Ed Rege (ECI-Africa & Chair, AABNet Executive Committee)

16:35 – 16:55: Official Book Launch Ceremony

- Unveiling of the book Short remarks by Presiding Guest (**Director, AU-IBAR**)
- Sale of copies of the book (**Moderator: Dr Siboniso Moyo**)
- Book access and dissemination plans, next steps for awareness, uptake, and expected outcomes and impact (**Prof. Eveline Ibeagha-Awemu**)

16:55 – 17:00: Vote of Thanks, Closing Remarks and Way Forward

Speaker- Prof Sunday Peters (Department of Animal Science, Berry College, Mount Berry, Georgia, USA)

17:00 – 18:00: Networking Cocktail / Reception
