

European stakeholders call for stronger, coordinated action on sustainable parasite control

Leading European researchers, policymakers, government agencies, and industry representatives convened in Brussels during the end of 2025 (19 November) for a high-level policy outreach meeting focused on advancing sustainable parasite control in livestock. The meeting was jointly organised by the consortia of three European initiatives on the topic and brought forward the urgent need for harmonised European action to address rising antiparasitic resistance and strengthen animal health protection across the continent. Today, we launch the summary video of this event here ([summary video](#)), as well as short videos on the different projects and some views on the topic from stakeholder organisations. All videos are available with subtitles in 8 languages and can be accessed via the new knowledge exchange platform on sustainable worm control [here](#).

Rising Antiparasitic Resistance is a continuing threat to animal health and EU Food security

Stakeholders highlighted that antiparasitic resistance is intensifying at concerning rates across the EU and globally. Antiparasitic resistance is the phenomenon where parasites have become able to survive antiparasitic treatment and thus continue their negative effects on animal welfare and farm productivity. On a global scale, this is affecting food security and economic stability. As climate change continues to alter parasite epidemiology, livestock systems are increasingly vulnerable to parasite-driven losses. Experts stressed that improved parasite management is not only essential for safeguarding animal health, but also represents a critical lever for climate mitigation, as healthier animals contribute to more efficient and resilient production systems.

A call for high priority on parasitic control and harmonized actions across Europe

Stakeholders underscored that achieving sustainable parasite control should be maintained as a high priority on the European policy agenda, ensuring alignment with broader EU goals on environmental sustainability, food security, animal welfare and One Health principles. Experts called for increased integration between research outcomes and policy design, noting that sustainable parasite control depends not only on new technologies but also on supportive regulation, incentives for best practices, and continued awareness among farmers and veterinarians.

Four EU-supported initiatives addressed different dimensions of sustainable parasite control through scientific and policy leadership

During the meeting, the four EU supported initiatives presented their contribution and ongoing work as follows:

1. **LIFE MiCiFEED (LIFE Programme):** Developing climate-smart feeding strategies that reduce parasite exposure and enhance livestock resilience.
2. **ENVIRANT (COST Action):** Building a European scientific network to evaluate the environmental impact of livestock antiparasitics and support coordinated research methodologies.
3. **ICRAD Projects (EU-funded Research):** Delivering cross-border research and next-generation tools for detection, monitoring, and mitigation of antiparasitic resistance.
4. **SPARC- Sustainable Parasite Control Network:** Strengthening knowledge exchange among farmers, veterinarians, advisors, and researchers; accelerating practical on-farm innovations to outsmart antiparasitic resistance.

SPARC activities

To keep up to date with the SPARC activities, please visit the SPARC website: www.wormsparc.com. You will find Practical Abstracts, webinars, the basket of options and more relevant information.

SPARC – Lighting the Path to Sustainable Parasite Control

SPARC is a Horizon Europe project, established in 2024 with a mission to build a European Community of Practice involving all interested stakeholders and build a European vision and practices on sustainable worm control. The final goal is to increase the performance and the resilience of ruminant livestock farms by widely disseminating best practices, tools and solutions on sustainable worm control that improve (1) animal health and welfare on the farms; (2) economic performance, and (3) the environmental sustainability of the sector.

SPARC is a cooperation between 15 partners in 10 countries coordinated by Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) and Kreavet in Belgium. The partners involved are Ghent University (BE), Università Degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (IT), Hellenic Agricultural Organisation (ELGO)-DIMITRA (GR), Zuidelijke Land- En Tuinbouw Organisatie (NL), Institut de l'Elevage (FR), Animal Health Ireland (IE), Bioresearch Laboratories (GR), Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (ES), Toinen Pro Art Fundacja (PL), Centre Interregional d'information et de Recherche en Production Ovinele Mourier (FR), Boehringer Ingelheim (DE), The Queen's University of Belfast (UK) and Moredun Research Institute (UK).

To keep up to date with the SPARC activities, please connect with us on our website: www.wormsparc.com or by following us on social media @wormsparcEU. Interact with our practical abstracts on the website highlighted in different languages.

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**Sustainable PARAsite Control
in Grazing Ruminants**



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