by increased awareness, better surveillance and more support for upgrading pig production to increase domestic food supply and export opportunities for pork. The group also aims to facilitate investigation of the link between the high prevalence of epilepsy in the region and neurocysticosis. Since its inception in 2002, members of the CWGESA and many other colleagues have been involved in research that has significantly increased the amount of information available about cysticercosis/taeniosis in the region. For example, human cysticercosis surveys using Antigen-ELISA in the southern highlands of Tanzania and Tete province, Mozambique revealed that 16.7% and 14.5%, respectively, of people sampled had active infections. The time has come to use this type of information to formulate and evaluate control interventions that are likely to succeed in greatly reducing and eventually eliminating cysticercosis and taeniosis in the region.

Meeting participants provided updates on the status of porcine and human cysticercosis in the 13 endemic countries in the ESA region, including Madagascar, represented at the meeting, as well as in Nigeria and Gambia/Senegal. There were also updates on the Global Campaign for Combating T. solium Cysticercosis, in the form of a report on the WHO Experts Meeting on Cysticercosis Elimination, held the week before the 6th General Assembly meeting of the CWGESA; on the ground covered during a meeting of the CWGESA Technical Advisory Group in September 2008; and on ongoing and commencing regional projects, as well as more general aspects such as progress in developing a vaccine for pigs, the schistosomiasis control initiative in the region, and the activities of GALVmed. In regions where the zoonoses overlap, the integration of schistosomiasis and taeniosis control through human treatment with anthelminitics appears feasible and is already being done in some countries, including Madagascar, although concerns about the possible effect on persons with undiagnosed and dormant neurocysticercosis were raised. The potentially high contribution that raising awareness and providing information on prevention of cysticercosis can make to control and elimination was highlighted in particular in reports from Tanzania and Zambia, where a measure of success has been achieved in target communities. The importance of improving pig husbandry was also reflected in reports, and initiatives in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania as the focus of ongoing and commencing projects were described. Working groups considered the theme ‘Moving from securing the evidence base to intervention research’. They proposed various integrated control approaches. Ideally these would consist of improving pig husbandry, ensuring good sanitation and hygiene including meat inspection, and providing education and training in good practices, but recognising that not all of these could be achieved in the short term, interventions such as mass vaccination and/or treatment of pigs and mass or targeted treatment of humans at risk were also incorporated. Participants were reminded that the CWGESA website is available at www.cwgesa.org It was concluded that the status of cysticercosis as a neglected zoonosis remains unchanged, and that innovative approaches that integrate a variety of options for control of the disease in people and pigs will be needed to change that situation.

The next General Assembly will be held in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa, in 2011.