Coccidiosis, a species-specific intestinal disease caused by *Eimeria* spp. parasites, causes substantial production losses in the poultry industry worldwide. The objective of the study was to examine the distribution and economic impact of *Eimeria* spp. within small-scale commercial poultry farms in Africa. Faecal samples and data on production parameters and farm management were collected from small-scale (less than 2,000 birds per batch) commercial broiler and layer farms within Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia. The gross margin and enterprise budget per bird per year were calculated to assess individual farm profitability. The parasite presence and load was quantified through faecal oocyst counts and confirmed through *Eimeria* specific 5S rDNA PCR. The field samples were screened for the presence or absence of each of the seven *Eimeria* species that cause coccidiosis in the chicken using a diagnostic molecular PCR assay. Pathogenicity of species present was compared with farm profitability. *Eimeria* spp. parasites were found to be widespread within Africa and were present on 75% (60/80) farms sampled. Species complexity was comparable to that of Europe with all seven *Eimeria* species detected and 35% (28/80) farms concurrently infected by multiple *Eimeria* species. Farmers reported awareness of clinical coccidiosis and mortality rates of up to 80%. The profitability of farms varied substantially by country and production type, with gross margins ranging from -21.88 to 52.30 USD per bird per year in layer systems and from -4.01 to 8.01 USD per bird per year in broiler systems. Further studies are required to characterise the *Eimeria* population within Africa and the economic impact on poultry farms and to identify cost effective potential control strategies and interventions.