

PE&RC Newsletter July 2025

PE&RC news



PE&RC collaboration call open!

The PE&RC Institutional Collaboration Call is a call for short-term PhD and postdoc projects. It is meant to stimulate collaboration between PE&RC members of Wageningen University and those from other institutes.

[Call information](#)



PE&RC BBQ

28 augustus

Let's start the new academic year of good with a BBQ and drinks! Together with the PPC, we are organising our yearly BBQ. The event will start at 17:00 at Wageningen Campus on the terrace in front of Radix Serre. All PE&RC members are invited. We hope to see all of you there.

[Join](#)



Save the date, PE&RC Day 2025

9 October 2025

This PE&RC day focuses on "**Life in the extremes**". We'll be looking at the mechanisms through which life can cope in the harsh, extreme environments and discuss how knowledge and insight can contribute to sustainable life on earth. We will also explore how we can maintain sustainable life in the ultimate harsh environment: space. Registration will open soon so block the October 9th in your agenda!

PE&RC Highlighted activities



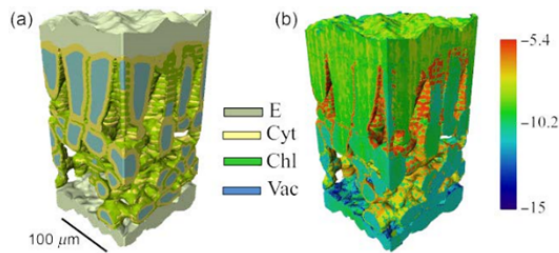
Human induced land degradation

8 September- 11 October 2025

This course is organised by WIMEK and supported by PE&RC.

Human induced land degradation is a very actual and increasing problem all over the world. Population growth, unsustainable management of natural resources as well as increasing amounts of harmful chemicals in the environment lead to severe land degradation.

[More info](#)



Crop Physiology: Drivers of adaptation to change

16 - 21 November 2025

Climate change is a major threat to global food systems. Crop yields are expected to decline due to changes in temperature, water supply and CO₂ levels. Moreover, as climate change models have predicted and what we already see today is that conditions will become much more erratic (sudden heat waves, flooding, droughts etc) with dire consequences for plant growth.

[More info](#)



Chemical Communication in the Anthropocene: Concepts and Methods

17 - 21 November 2025

applications and working with data are also very useful for research. For dealing with these issues, Python offers many libraries. Getting the skills of working with some of these libraries will enable future learning. This can be for more advanced programming applications, but also for self-learning to apply different libraries.

[More info](#)

Other PE&RC activities open for registration

PE&RC (co-)organises a broad range of courses and activities. Apart from initiatives of the PE&RC office and PE&RC staff members, activities are organised based on request and on suggestions by the PhD candidates themselves! If you have any suggestions please contact us at office.pe@wur.nl.

01
SEP

**Soil Biology Lab Skills
Course For Assessing
Soil Functions**

29
SEP

Theoretical Ecology

01
SEP

The Art of Modelling

22
SEP

**Structural Equation
Modelling (online)**

06
OCT

**Tidy data transformation
and visualization with R
(online)**

03
NOV

**Intermediate
Programming in R
(online)**

07
DEC

**No Frontiers in Microbial
Ecology**

17
DEC

Design of Experiments

PE&RC Retreats 1 - 3 September

First Year's

The idea of this retreat is to make PhD candidates more familiar with what to expect during the PhD track and how to avoid major catastrophes and disappointments. Focus will be on the PhD process and pitfalls you can encounter along the way as well as the criteria for a successful PhD within 4 years.

[Register](#)

Midterm

This will be the time to reflect and see if catastrophes and disappointments have surfaced, and how to deal with them. Workshops are organised on different topics like "Communication with your supervisor", "Stress and work pressure", "Time and project management", and "Paper writing".

[Register](#)

Last Year's

The idea of this retreat is to prepare PhD candidates in the last years of their track for the specific challenges that await them. Among these challenges are the preparation of a thesis, meeting the deadlines associated with thesis defence and the choice of a further career inside or outside science.

[Register](#)

Other relevant news and activities



Food Systems and Ecology: Towards Sustainable Solutions

16 July - 25 July 2025

Through a blend of practical and theoretical learning, participants

will gain valuable knowledge and experience, preparing them for sustainable solutions to food system challenges.

[More info](#)



Postdoc Monthly Meet-ups WUR

The Postdoc Council warmly welcomes you the monthly meet-ups at The Spot in the Orion building. It's an opportunity to learn more about the Council's work and what it could mean for you. The next meetup is on the fourth of September from 16:30 - 18:00.

4 Sept



Global Soil Biodiversity Conference

The Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative was established to promote expert knowledge on soil biodiversity and to link this into environmental policy and sustainable land management with the aim of protecting and enhancing ecosystems services.

12 - 15 April



Agroecosystems discussion group

We are planning to revive the existing Agroecosystems discussion group. This group aims to discuss a wide range of topics, including the application of production ecology and systems theory in various contexts worldwide.

[More info](#)

Upcoming PhD Defences

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 2 Jul
15:30 | Luis Fernando Merloti
Wageningen University Laboratory of Nematology
Soil Lessons from Restored Atlantic Forest |
| 10 Jul
15:30 | Yifei Zhao
Wageningen University Horticulture & Product Physiology
Light, Roots, and Nutrients: Understanding Nitrate Uptake Regulation in Hydroponic Systems |
| 11 Jul
13:00 | Makrina Diakaki
Wageningen University Soil Biology
Allies not Bystanders: the Involvement of Spinach Seed Microbiota in the Suppression of Globisporangium ultimum Damping-Off |
| 11 Jul
15:30 | Mexximiliaan M. S. F. Holweg
Wageningen University Horticulture & Product Physiology
Photobiology of medicinal cannabis pharmaceutical compounds and crop morphology |
| 27 Aug
15:30 | Jiayu Zhang
Wageningen University Horticulture & Product Physiology
Breaking Plant Thermography Barriers: New Insights using the Leaf Energy Balance Model |
| 29 Aug
15:30 | Stephan David
Wageningen University Horticulture & Product Physiology
The regulation of winter dormancy in strawberry |
| 3 Sep
15:30 | Eva Suzanne Thuijsman
Wageningen University Plant Production Systems
Agricultural Research for Development: Grappling with Social Equity |
| 4 Sep
15:30 | Zhan Xu
Wageningen University Centre for Crop Systems Analysis
Exploring options for a more sustainable crop production on the North China Plain |

All defences

Jobs & Calls

Here you can find information on open calls as well as current job openings within the PE&RC network.

If you have information on calls or vacancies that you would like to have advertised on this page, please send this information to office.pe@wur.nl.

Find all



PE&RC LinkedIn group

Are you already a member of our PE&RC LinkedIn group? This is the online place where you can find relevant activities and news! You can also expand your network, make contacts, and share your expertise with others. Not a member yet? Register quickly via the "Join" button. Hope to meet you there!

Join us



Bron: lorem ipsum

Social safety

Besides organising a suit of activities PE&RC also offers its members the possibility of confidential advice when they are confronted with work-related challenges. This applies to PhD's, postdocs and staff. For a complete overview of all the Social safety information, please click below

More info

Did you miss earlier PE&RC messages? Check them out [here](#).

If you have information that you would like to have included in the PE&RC messages, please send this information to office.pe@wur.nl.

Graduate School for Production Ecology & Resource Conservation

[Visit our website](#)

