

## PE&RC AGREEMENT ON (CO-)AUTHORSHIP

Doing a PhD involves writing scientific publications. As part of this process, the PhD candidate and the supervisory team will need to discuss who qualifies for co-authorship, and based on which criteria, but also on the ranking of the author list. To aid this process and to provide a general guideline, the Graduate School PE&RC has formulated its own set of authorship guidelines, based on the Wageningen University Recommendations for co-authorship in scientific publications, and on the Publication Etiquette of the Department of Soil Quality. **PE&RC specifically asks the project team to take note of the following guidelines** and to indicate whether the team plans to deviate from these guidelines.

### General advice regarding the publication process

- Make an agreement about the criteria for first authorship and the ranking of co-authors very early in the research process and also about the required tasks and activities to meet the criteria for author- and co-authorship.
- Decide on authorship and the ranking of the co-authors collectively.
- In case of disagreement or doubts about authorship or ranking of authors, feel free to consult the PhD Programme Coordinators of PE&RC.

### Authorship and co-authorship

Starting point should be that all authors of a paper have contributed *substantially* to the paper, have reviewed the final version of the manuscript, approve it for publication, and take public responsibility for the content of the paper.

Someone's contribution is substantial if he/she contributed to at least two of the following four aspects:

- Problem definition, design of the experiment or research project, planning. This may include acquisition of the project, writing of the project or research proposal, designing the experimental setup.
- Practical execution of the lab or field work. Production of data.
- Analyses and interpretation of the results.
- Writing of the manuscript.

The contribution to two of these four aspects must really have made a difference. This does not necessarily mean that the contribution took much time. Consequently, someone who supplies data can only be a coauthor if he/she also contributes to one of the other three aspects. It may help to be clear about this in an early stage, for instance when you ask someone for data.

People who contributed to a paper, but whose contribution does not meet the above-mentioned criteria for a co-author should be mentioned in the acknowledgements of a paper. Finally, the author who submits a manuscript for publication accepts the responsibility of having included as co-authors all persons appropriate and none inappropriate. The submitting author should have sent each living co-author a copy of the manuscript and have obtained the co-author's assent to submit it as such.

### Author Ranking

- The 'first author' is always the person who has made the most important integrating contribution.
- All other authors are ranked in accordance with the general rules or customs of the specific discipline. Authors may be ranked in order of decreasing importance of their integrating contribution, or a special position may be assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> author and last author, unless the editorial board of a scientific journal has determined other rules for author ranking explicitly.
- Keep in mind the tasks and competences of the author in order to balance the importance of their "substantial individual contributions".