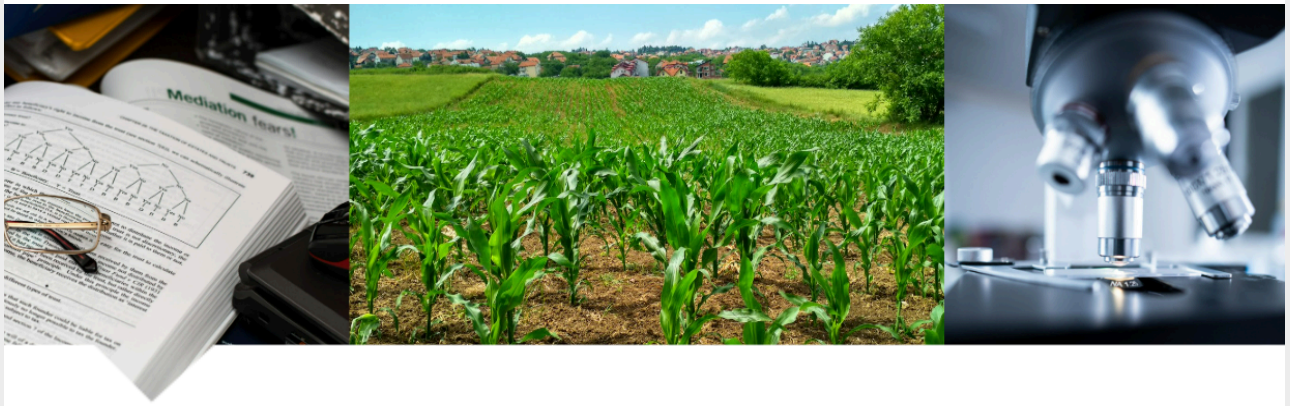
The Graduate School for Production Ecology & Resource Conservation

Online version

PE&RC Newsletter February 2026

PE&RC news

PE&RC Highlighted activities



Farming Systems and Rural Livelihoods Analysis

22 March - 2 April 2026

In collaboration with CGIAR Science Programs on Sustainable Farming and Multifunctional Landscapes, the PE&RC graduate school again organizes this field course on Farming Systems and Rural Livelihoods Analysis (FSRLA) in central Malawi. The focus of this edition of the FSRLA course is on farm household systems in multifunctional landscapes, as affected by poverty, pressures of climate change, population growth, land-use change, and changes in markets.

More info

Multivariate Analysis

23, 24, 25, 30, 31 March 2026

The course Multivariate Analysis offers a thorough introduction to

Photosynthesis

22 - 27 March 2026

Photosynthesis forms the foundation for all plant productivity

multivariate statistical methods, tailored for researchers working with complex datasets where multiple variables are measured simultaneously. It is particularly relevant for those analysing data from fields such as ecology, agriculture and environmental sciences

More info

Spatial Ecology

29 March – 3 April 2026

Including space in ecological studies has become increasingly important in the past decades. Recent studies reveal that ecological processes can generate striking spatial complexity and that the movement and distribution of organisms interact with spatial environmental patterns.

More info

Tidy data transformation and visualization with R

20 April - 1 May 2026

Tidy data facilitates easier data transformation and visualization. Tidy data works hand in hand with

and life on Earth as we currently know it. In this course, we will explore photosynthesis from the chloroplast to the whole-plant canopy level. We will also examine the theory behind varied methodologies that can be used to study plant photosynthesis.

More info

Introduction to R and R Studio

23 - 8 April 2026

The aim of this course is to introduce the R programming language and how to use it to perform statistical inference and data visualization. Participants will be introduced to the R language syntax, basic types of data in R, how to explore data through descriptive statistics and visualization and how to apply a selection of basic

More info

Basic Statistics

4, 6, 11, 12, 13 May 2026

This is a refresher course aimed at PhD candidates. The level is that of a second course in Statistics.

the tools provided by the tidyverse collection of R packages, in a way that promotes reproducibility and efficiency. ggplot2 (Wickham, 2009) is one of the core members of the tidyverse.

More info

We will refresh basic knowledge of Probability, Statistical Inference (Estimation with confidence intervals and Testing), t-tests, standard cases of the Linear Model: Regression, ANOVA and ANCOVA.

More info

Natural disturbances and restoration activities in European forests

10-16 May 2026

Europe's forests are under increasing pressure from climate change and natural disturbances. At the same time, the Nature Restoration Regulation pushes for urgent restoration of forests. This Summer School of the Euroleague for Life Sciences deals with how to approach and adapt to this, and how sudden disturbances can steer restoration activities.

More info

Mixed Linear Models

3, 4, 8 June 2026

In this module we discuss how to analyse dependent data, that is, data for which the assumption of independence needed in Linear Models is violated. So: Do you have a nested experimental set-up? Like measurements on large plots, but also on smaller plots within the larger plots?

More info

Bayesian statistics

6, 7, 8, 9 July 2026

This course offers a hands-on, example-driven approach to teaching the core concepts and tools of Bayesian data analysis. It

Intermediate Programming in R

2, 5, 9, 12 October 2026

This course is for participants who want to deepen their knowledge of R programming and be able to use R to deal efficiently with

will be a course in which tutorials are followed by illustrative practicals.

More info

computational problems and programming tasks.

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.

19 FEB

Meta Analysis

Researchers trying to summarize the constantly growing body of published research are increasingly using meta-analysis. The focus of this 2-day course will be on concepts of linear models and mixed linear models in meta-analysis. The statistical software R will be used.

25 JAN

Structural Equation Modelling

This course will empower attendees to maximize and defend their scientific interpretations based on their expert knowledge as informed by quantitative results. A new procedure, “causal knowledge analysis” will be introduced

24 MAR

Statistics for Data Science

This course will make you familiar with a modern toolbox of analysis techniques at the interface of statistics and machine learning. You will develop the skills to build and

17 JUN

Generalized Linear Models

This course will empower attendees to maximize and defend their scientific interpretations based on their expert knowledge as informed by quantitative results. A new procedure,

evaluate modeling strategies for complex (big, high-dimensional, hierarchically-structured) data

"causal knowledge analysis" will be introduced

PE&RC Retreats 19 - 21 March

First Year's

Starting a PhD is an exciting step but it can also feel a bit overwhelming at times. Our First year Retreat is designed to help you get a better sense of what lies ahead and how to make the most of your PhD experience. You'll have the chance to build a network of peers you can turn to.

Midterm

Hit pause, look back, and explore how things are going and where there is room for improvement. You will focus on moving forward with confidence and discover new ways how to accomplish this. To support you in this process, you'll take part in a series of dynamic, hands-on workshops.

Last Year's

Join us for an inspiring two-day retreat designed for PhD candidates in their final year! Step out of your daily routines and dive into a mix of reflection, learning and connection. You'll share your insights, talk about upcoming challenges, and exchange smart, practical strategies.

Register Register Register

Other relevant news and activities

Bron: Hans Heemsbergen

NAEM 2026

10 & 11 February 2026

This conference is particularly geared towards people working in the field of ecology and/or evolution. It aims to strengthen the network of ecologists in the Netherlands, Belgium, and surrounding countries and provides an overview of the work carried out by the people in the network

More info

WGS Carousel

4 March 2026

Every year, Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) organises a one-day event for all PE&RC PhD candidates consisting of a carousel of 4 sessions with 6 workshops per session. For 2026, the WGS carousel is planned for March 4th.

To the workshops

Bioinformatics with Linux and Python

16 - 27 Feb 2026

Linux and Python, a dynamic, readable programming language, is a popular combination for all types of bioinformatics work, from simple one-off scripts to large, complex software projects. This workshop is aimed at complete beginners and assumes no prior programming experience.

More info

Applied Enzymology

29 June - 2 July 2026

This course consists of several lectures given by experts from academia and industry and provides opportunity to exchange knowledge with the experts During two afternoon sessions, computational tools in structural biology and enzyme engineering will be explained and demonstrated. This will include hands-on training in using computational tools.

More info

Intestinal Microbiome of Humans and Animals

15-17 April 2026

The intestinal tract of humans and animals contains a microbiome that consists of thousands of different microorganisms and their genetic repertoire which closely interact with each other and their mammalian host, and are intimately linked to nutrition and health.Participants will be asked to provide short (2-5 min) pitches to introduce their own projects.

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Upcoming PhD Defences

05 Feb

Qianxixi Min (Xixi)

Lighting Strategies to Enhance Crop Quality in Controlled Environment Agriculture

Wageningen University | Horticulture and Product Physiology

15:30 Omnia building, Wageningen

10 Feb

Justin Stewart

Mapping plant-microbe symbiosis across spatial scales

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam | Toby Kiers

11:45 VU Auditorium Main Building

12 Feb

EUGENE DELA SETSOAFIA

Socio-technical fertiliser interventions to enhance on-farm productivity

Wageningen University | Centre for Crop Systems Analysis

13:00 Omnia building, Wageningen

12 Feb

Germán Pérez

Methane-oxidizing bacteria; "the gatekeepers of methane" Insights into their niche differentiation in freshwater systems

Wageningen University | Soil Biology

15:30 Omnia building, Wageningen

13 Feb

Quanxing Wan

Detection of crop water stress using UAVs: practices and new insights in utilizing uncooled thermal sensors

Wageningen University | Laboratory of Geo-information Science and Remote Sensing

13:00 Omnia building, Wageningen

13 Feb

Xi Bai

The role of microbial ecology in the functioning of slow sand filters for drinking water production

University of Amsterdam | Freshwater and Marine Ecology (IBED-FAME)

13:00 Agnietenkapel, Amsterdam

20 Feb

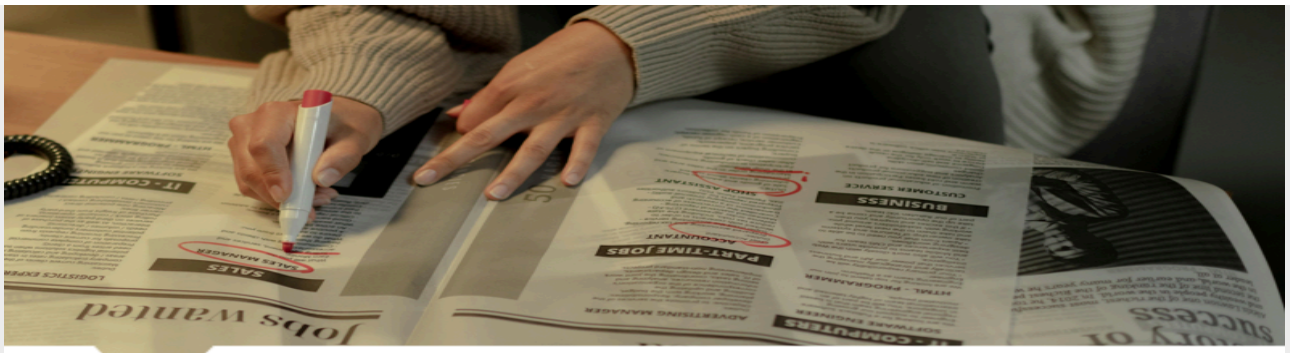
Tullia Cologiuri

The role of earthworms in enhanced mineral weathering - understanding their impact on carbon dynamics and sustainable fertilisation

Wageningen University

15:30 Omnia building, Wageningen

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.

See 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: lorum 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.