

# **DOCTORAL DEGREE REGULATIONS**

**Wageningen University**

## **Table of contents**

<b>General provisions</b>	<b>3</b>
Article 1    Definitions and general provisions	3
Article 2    Introductory provisions	3
<b>The PhD candidate</b>	<b>5</b>
Article 3    Qualifications for the doctorate	5
<b>The promotor and co-promotor</b>	<b>6</b>
Article 4    Qualifications and tasks of the promotor	6
Article 5    Qualifications and tasks of the co-promotor	6
<b>The thesis committee</b>	<b>8</b>
Article 6    Composition and operation of the thesis committee	8
<b>Application for the PhD defence and appointment of the promotor</b>	<b>9</b>
Article 7    Application for the PhD defence	9
Article 8    Appointment of promotor and co-promotor	9
<b>Evaluation of the PhD thesis and the propositions</b>	<b>10</b>
Article 9    Evaluation by the promotor	10
Article 10   Evaluation of the propositions by the Academic Board	10
Article 11   Evaluation of the PhD thesis by the opponents	10
<b>The thesis</b>	<b>12</b>
Article 12   Contents of the thesis and the propositions	12
Article 13   Structure and design of the thesis	13
Article 14   Language of the thesis and the propositions	13
Article 15   Printing/reproduction and distribution of the thesis	13
<b>The public defence of the thesis</b>	<b>15</b>
Article 16   The thesis defence ceremony	15
Article 17   Conferring the doctorate and the degree certificate	15
<b>The designation <i>cum laude</i></b>	<b>17</b>
Article 18	17
<b>Settling disputes</b>	<b>18</b>
Article 19	18
Article 20   Complaint handling procedure	18
Article 21   Objection procedure	18
<b>Honorary doctorate</b>	<b>20</b>
Article 22	20
<b>Final provisions</b>	<b>21</b>
Article 23	21
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>22</b>

## **General provisions**

### Article 1 Definitions and general provisions

#### 1.1 Definitions

As used in these regulations, the following terms are defined below:

Act: the Higher Education and Research Act.

Regulations: these doctoral degree regulations, including the corresponding appendices;

The other terms appearing in these regulations have the same meaning as those same terms from the Act.

#### 1.2

When these regulations refer to a promotor or co-promotor, if reference is made to more than one promotor or co-promotor, this should be read as: promotors or co-promotors.

#### 1.3

For purposes of clarity and simplicity, the masculine form (he, him, his) is used in these regulations. Of course, these regulations apply equally to both men and women.

### Article 2 Introductory provisions

#### 2.1.1

At Wageningen University, the doctorate can be conferred based on the PhD thesis.

#### 2.1.2

The Academic Board confers the doctorate subject to the provisions in the Act and in these regulations.

#### 2.2.1

At Wageningen University, a joint doctorate can be conferred based on the PhD thesis.

#### 2.2.2

The Academic Board confers the joint doctorate together with one or more bodies authorised to confer the doctorate, the latter being linked to one or more partner institutes, on the basis of statutory provisions, these regulations and agreements made with the partner institute(s).

#### 2.2.3

For a joint doctorate, prior written permission must be received from the Academic Board for the PhD programme.

#### 2.2.4

Appendix 6 of these regulations contains additional rules on the joint doctorate.

### 2.3

The Academic Board enacts the regulations concerning the conferral of a doctorate after acquiring approval from the Executive Board.

## The PhD candidate

### Article 3 Qualifications for the doctorate

#### 3.1

To qualify for the doctorate:

- a. based on the provisions in Article 7.10a, first, second or third clause of the Act, the candidate must have earned the degree of Master at an institute of academic education which is recognised by the Academic Board;
- b. as proof of his ability to perform as an independent practitioner of science, the candidate must have written a PhD thesis or created a technological design; and
- c. must have written at least six and no more than eight propositions; and
- d. must have satisfied the other requirements in these regulations.

#### 3.2

In exceptional cases, the Academic Board can grant a doctorate to individuals who have satisfied the provisions in the first clause under b, c and d, but have not satisfied the provision in that clause under a.

#### 3.3

The PhD candidate must have demonstrable proficiency in the language in which the thesis is written at the level established by the Academic Board as described in *Appendix 1*.

## **The promotor and co-promotor**

### Article 4 Qualifications and tasks of the promotor

#### 4.1

A promotor can be a professor at Wageningen University (with the exception of the honorary professor) or at another accredited university.

#### 4.2

An honourably discharged professor retains his right to act as a promotor for candidates for whom he was already appointed as promotor for five years after his discharge.

#### 4.3

If the promotor to be appointed is not a professor at Wageningen University, the Academic Board also appoints a professor from Wageningen University as promotor.

#### 4.4

No more than two promotors will be appointed. The Academic Board can appoint more than two promotors only in exceptional cases. If multiple promotors are appointed, then they will determine amongst each other their individual tasks after consulting the PhD candidate.

#### 4.5

Individuals who have a family relationship with the PhD candidate, or have a relationship with the PhD candidate that impairs their objectivity, do not qualify for the position of promotor.

#### 4.6

The promotor has the task of supervising the PhD candidate and is responsible for the supervision. He ensures that the thesis satisfies the requirements pursuant to these regulations.

### Article 5 Qualifications and tasks of the co-promotor

#### 5.1

The promotor can request the Academic Board to appoint one or two promotors. If a single promotor is appointed, the Academic Board can appoint one or two co-promotors. If multiple promotors have been appointed, the Academic Board will appoint only one co-promotor, if requested to do so. In such cases, the Academic Board can appoint two co-promotors only in exceptional cases.

#### 5.2

The co-promotor is employed as a member of scientific staff, not necessarily at Wageningen University, and has earned a doctorate at an accredited University.

#### 5.3

Individuals who have a family relationship with the PhD candidate or a relationship that impairs their objective judgement with respect to the candidate do not qualify for the position of co-promotor.

#### 5.4

The co-promotor aids the promotor with the supervision of the PhD candidate. He determines whether the PhD thesis satisfies the requirements pursuant to these regulations and advises the promotor in this matter.

## The thesis committee

### Article 6 Composition and operation of the thesis committee

#### 6.1

The Academic Board appoints a thesis committee for every PhD candidate.

#### 6.2

The composition of the thesis committee is as follows:

- a. as chairperson, the rector magnificus in his capacity as chairman of the Academic Board, or his replacement;
- b. the appointed promotors and/or co-promotors, including in any case one promotor who is a professor at Wageningen University;
- c. four opponents, as further described in Article 6.3, of whom at least one must be a professor at Wageningen University.

#### 6.3

Professors or individuals who have earned doctorates can be appointed as opponents after the Academic Board has evaluated these individuals and determined that they are sufficiently qualified to be a member of the thesis committee.

Opponents must not be affiliated with or employed by the chair group of the PhD candidate or the chair group of one of the promotors or co-promotors. They must not have a family relationship with the PhD candidate or a relationship with him that could impair their independent judgement.

#### 6.4

The chairperson appoints the primary promotor as secretary.

The chairperson cannot vote. The members referred to under clause 2 sub b jointly have a single vote, the other members as referred to in clause 2 sub c have one vote per person. The thesis committee makes decisions based on a simple majority of votes, unless stated otherwise in these regulations. The members can also submit their evaluation and their vote in writing to the chairperson. In any case, the chairperson calls a meeting if the required majority is not achieved by written ballot.

## **Application for the PhD defence and appointment of the promotor**

### Article 7 Application for the PhD defence

#### 7.1

At least six months in advance of the desired date of the PhD defence, the PhD candidate applies to the Academic Board by submitting the application form (*Appendix 2*) to the Secretariat; the application must include the documents and information referred to on the application form.

#### 7.2

The PhD candidate ensures that at the time of application he meets the education requirements referred to in Article 3 of these regulations.

#### 7.3

On the application form, the PhD candidate lists the name(s) of the proposed promotor(s), their teaching and research remit, university affiliation and work address, along with the same information for the proposed co-promotor(s). The application form is signed by the proposed promotor(s) and co-promotor(s).

### Article 8 Appointment of promotor and co-promotor

#### 8.1

Immediately after a PhD study begins, the Academic Board appoints a promotor and possibly (at the request of the promotor(s)) a co-promotor. If required, upon application for the PhD defence as referred to in Article 7, either the promotor or PhD candidate can request the appointment of another promotor.

#### 8.2

As a result of the request of the PhD candidate on the application form referred to in Article 7.1, the Academic Board appoints one or more promotors and possibly a co-promotor, if this has not yet occurred as referred to in Article 8.1.

#### 8.3

Preceding the appointment, the Academic Board can provide a hearing to the PhD candidate, the proposed promotor(s) and co-promotor(s).

#### 8.4

Both the PhD candidate and the appointed (co-)promotor must accept the appointment. By accepting his appointment, the (co-)promotor accepts the applicability of these regulations.

## **Evaluation of the PhD thesis and the propositions**

### Article 9 Evaluation by the promotor

#### 9.1

The PhD candidate submits the PhD thesis and the propositions to the promotor for his evaluation.

#### 9.2

In his evaluation of the PhD thesis and the propositions, the promotor takes the recommendation of the co-promotor into account.

#### 9.3

The evaluation of the PhD thesis takes place by reviewing it in accordance with the requirements in these regulations, especially regarding the requirements in Articles 12 through 14 and 18, as well as the attainment targets established by the Academic Board as set down in *Appendix 3*.

#### 9.4

The evaluation of the propositions takes place by reviewing them according to the requirements in Articles 12.3, 14.1 and 14.3, and according to general principles of morality and decency.

#### 9.5

If the promotor determines that the PhD thesis and the propositions have satisfied the requirements, he approves the thesis and the propositions.

#### 9.6

The promotor (or primary promotor if there is more than one) informs the Academic Board and the PhD candidate about this approval. This approval is not a final decision, but a recommendation to the Academic Board.

#### 9.7

The Academic Board, taking account of the approval of the thesis and the propositions by the promotor, decides to appoint the thesis committee.

### Article 10 Evaluation of the propositions by the Academic Board

#### 10.1

After being approved by the promotor, the propositions are submitted to the Academic Board for evaluation.

#### 10.2

The Academic Board decides whether the propositions meet the requirements set in articles 12.3 and 14.3.

### Article 11 Evaluation of the PhD thesis by the opponents

#### 11.1

After being approved by the promotor, the thesis is submitted to the opponents, who have been appointed for this purpose.

#### 11.2

Within six weeks after receiving the thesis as approved by the promotor, the opponents decide whether or not the thesis has provided sufficient proof of competency in the independent practice of science to allow the PhD candidate to publicly defend his thesis. A positive decision requires a positive evaluation of all opponents.

#### 11.3

The decision referred to in Article 11.2 is based on a review of the thesis with respect to the attainment targets formulated by the Academic Board, which have been listed in *Appendix 3* and in Articles 12.1, 12.2 and 18 (cum laude).

#### 11.4

As secretary of the thesis committee, the promotor reports the decision of the thesis committee in writing to the PhD candidate. If the thesis committee has decided that the PhD candidate cannot defend his thesis, the reasons for this decision will be explained.

## The thesis

### Article 12 Contents of the thesis and the propositions

#### 12.1

The thesis can be:

- a. a scientific treatment concerning a specific topic; or
- b. a number of distinct scientific treatments which have already been published (partially or entirely), if they display sufficient coherence with respect to a specific topic; this coherence is to be demonstrated partly by the inclusion of a general introduction, general discussion and summary which has not been published previously; or
- c. a technological design, comprised of a drawing created with the help of appropriate theoretical knowledge and methodologies from the relevant field, accompanied by a scientific explanation and documentation.

#### 12.2

The thesis is intended as proof of the competency of the PhD candidate to conduct independent scientific research.

#### 12.3

At least six and no more than eight propositions are added to the thesis. Two of the propositions concern the topic of the thesis or the technological design, two to four propositions concern a different scientific field and two propositions concern a socially relevant topic. Propositions are concisely worded positions taken by the PhD candidate that are formulated in such a way that they can be debated at a scientific level and consist of one sentence.

#### 12.4

A distinct scientific treatment, as referred to in Article 12.1 under b, which has been written by the PhD candidate in cooperation with others, can be part of the thesis only if he has provided a significant contribution and if the portion for which he is primarily responsible is clearly indicated in the thesis.

#### 12.5

The thesis can be written by one individual, or by two or three individuals together. The individuals who have written a thesis together must satisfy the following conditions:

- a. all authors are PhD candidates, each of whom satisfies the provisions and procedures in these regulations;
- b. the PhD candidates have at least one promotor in common;
- c. in the thesis, the portions for which each PhD candidate is primarily responsible are clearly indicated;
- d. each PhD candidate adds the prescribed number of his own propositions to the thesis;
- e. all PhD candidates must defend their thesis on the same day at Wageningen University.

## Article 13 Structure and design of the thesis

### 13.1

The structure and design of the thesis must satisfy the corresponding guidelines established by the Academic Board, which are included in these regulations as *Appendix 4*.

### 13.2

It is not allowed to include advertising or logos in the thesis or on the cover.

### 13.3

If the PhD research has been made possible in part by support, financial or otherwise, from outside the university, this must be reported in the thesis according to the guidelines referred to in article 13.1.

### 13.4

Sections which fall beyond the scope of the scientific treatment in the strictest sense can only be added to the thesis with permission from the Academic Board. Statements regarding religion or politics are not allowed, other than those related to acknowledgement of the support the PhD candidate has received.

## Article 14 Language of the thesis and the propositions

### 14.1

The thesis is written in English. Upon request from the PhD candidate, the Academic Board can give him or her permission to write the thesis in Dutch.

### 14.2

If the thesis is written in Dutch, a translation of the title and a summary of the contents will be added in English.

### 14.3

The propositions are formulated in the same language as that in which the thesis is written.

## Article 15 Printing/reproduction and distribution of the thesis

### 15.1

Before the thesis is printed or reproduced in any other fashion:

- a. the thesis committee must have decided that the PhD candidate can be allowed to defend his thesis;
- b. the cover, the title page, the page opposite the end leaf and page 4 with the ISBN number must be approved by the Academic Board. To this end, the PhD candidate must submit copies of these pages for approval to the secretariat of the Academic Board;
- c. the printer's proof of the thesis and the propositions must be approved in writing by the promotor, where the promotor takes the standards in or pursuant to these regulations into account.

## 15.2

In the guidelines that are included in these regulations as *Appendix 4*, the Academic Board determines the following:

- a. the number of copies of the thesis that, preceding the public defence, must be provided to the Academic Board.
- b. the number of copies of the thesis that the PhD candidate must supply at cost to the Wageningen University library, in consultation with the Executive Board.
- c. the way in which an electronic version of the thesis must be provided.

## **The public defence of the thesis**

### Article 16 The thesis defence ceremony

#### 16.1

The defence of the thesis takes place in public in the presence of the thesis committee.

#### 16.2

The public defence is chaired by the rector magnificus as chairperson of the Academic Board, or his replacement.

#### 16.3

The time and place of the public defence are determined by the Academic Board following consultation with the PhD candidate and promotor. The PhD candidate must submit a request for a time and place well in advance.

#### 16.4

The Academic Board establishes the protocol of the public defence. The standard protocol is included in these regulations as *Appendix 5*.

#### 16.5

The PhD candidate defends the thesis and the propositions for a period of 45 minutes; during this defence, he is opposed by the thesis committee and all other individuals who have been granted permission by the Academic Board. A request for permission to oppose the PhD candidate during the defence must be submitted to the Academic Board at least one week before the date of the public defence.

#### 16.6

The public defence is conducted in English unless the PhD candidate has submitted a written request to conduct the defence in Dutch and all members of the thesis committee are able to discuss in Dutch.

### Article 17 Conferring the doctorate and the degree certificate

#### 17.1

During a private meeting that takes place immediately following the thesis defence, the thesis committee, on behalf of the Academic Board, decides whether or not to confer the doctorate.

#### 17.2

Following the private meeting of the thesis committee, the chairperson reopens the public meeting and announces the decision of the thesis committee.

#### 17.3

As proof of conferral of the doctorate, the PhD candidate receives a degree certificate. The degree certificate is signed on behalf of the Academic Board by the rector magnificus or his replacement, the promotor(s), if relevant, the co-promotor(s) and by the PhD candidate.

#### 17.4

If a decision has been made to confer the doctorate *cum laude*, then this is listed on the degree certificate.

## The designation *cum laude*

### Article 18

#### 18.1

If the PhD candidate has shown exceptional competency in the independent practice of science, the Academic Board can confer the doctorate *cum laude* (with distinction).

#### 18.2

Up to six weeks before the day of public defence, the promotor and any other members of the thesis committee can submit a written proposal to the Academic Board to confer the designation of *cum laude*; this document must explain the reasons for the proposed designation.

#### 18.3

If the evaluation by the thesis committee gives reason to do so, then the Academic Board immediately submits the thesis and the proposal to two experts and requests them to make a recommendation about the proposal in an explanatory letter. The experts must be professors, but not at Wageningen University. At least one of the experts must be affiliated with a university outside the Netherlands.

#### 18.4

Only if at least one of the experts advised positively about, the Academic Board informs the thesis committee about the submitted proposal and calls a closed meeting of the thesis committee immediately preceding the defence ceremony. During this meeting, the thesis committee makes a tentative decision about granting the designation *cum laude*.

#### 18.5

The thesis committee makes a decision about the proposal to confer the designation *cum laude* on behalf of the Academic Board during the closed meeting referred to in Article 17.1. The proposal will be approved if no member of the committee votes against it or if no more than one member of the committee abstains from voting. If one of two consulted experts has made a negative recommendation, the proposal can be accepted only if there is a unanimous decision of the committee.

## Settling disputes

### Article 19

#### 19.1

The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act (Awb) apply.

#### 19.2

The regulations concerning the conferral of a doctorate do not apply to legal disputes.

### Article 20 Complaint handling procedure

#### 20.1

An interested party can submit a request for mediation or complaint handling to the Academic Board in case of a dispute that concerns the behaviours or decisions of promoters, co-promoters, the Academic Board itself, or individuals who are acting on behalf of the Academic Board. Mediation does not suspend the term referred to in Article 21.1. In consultation with the party submitting the request, the chairperson of the Academic Board provides mediation or complaint handling in accordance with Chapter 9 of the General Administrative Law Act.

### Article 21 Objection procedure

#### 21.1

An interested party can object to decisions made by or on behalf of the Academic Board within six weeks after he is informed of the decision; he does this by submitting a notice of objection in an explanatory letter to the Academic Board.

#### 21.2

Within four weeks after receiving a notice of objection, the Academic Board appoints an advisory committee.

#### 21.3

The advisory committee comprises two members from the Academic Board and a chairperson who is not a member of and is not responsible to the Academic Board. The members of the advisory committee have not been involved in the PhD procedure that is the subject of the decision.

#### 21.4

The advisory committee acts in accordance with the provisions in Article 7.13 of the General Administrative Law Act. The advisory committee can provide a hearing to the parties involved and is authorised to obtain all information that is necessary for the adequate performance of its task.

#### 21.5

Within four weeks after being appointed, the advisory committee makes a written recommendation to the Academic Board. The recommendation includes a report of the hearing.

#### 21.6

Within four weeks after receiving the recommendation, and in any case within 10 weeks after receiving the notice of objection, the Academic Board makes its decision about the objection, which it reports in an explanatory letter sent to the party who submitted the notice of objection and the other parties involved in the objection procedure.

#### 21.7

If the decision on the objection deviates from the recommendation made by the advisory committee, the letter about the decision explains the reasons for this deviation, and the advisory committee recommendation is included.

#### 21.8

Within six weeks after receiving the decision referred to in Article 21.6, an interested party can appeal to the competent Dutch court against this decision.

## **Honorary doctorate**

### Article 22

#### 22.1

Upon nomination by the Executive Board, the Academic Board is authorised to award the degree *Doctor honoris causa* (honorary doctorate) to an individual in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments. This doctorate is conferred by and in the presence of the Academic Board in a manner which is determined by this Board.

#### 22.2

The other provisions in these regulations do not apply to the conferral of an honorary doctorate.

## **Final provisions**

### Article 23

In all cases not covered by these regulations, the Academic Board will make a decision on the matter.

These regulations were determined by the Academic Board of Wageningen University on March 11, 2015  
and approved by the Executive Board of Wageningen University  
on April 20, 2015.

**Appendices:**

1. Language requirements
2. Application form for PhD thesis defence
3. Learning targets of the doctorate
4. Guidelines for structure, design and distribution of the thesis
5. Protocol for the thesis defence ceremony

## Appendix 1

### Language requirements

In order to be admitted to the PhD programme, the PhD candidate must demonstrate proficiency in the English language, as well as the Dutch language if the thesis is written in Dutch, at the level established by the Academic Board.

Proficiency in Dutch is defined as having passed the final exam in Dutch for pre-university education in the Netherlands, as shown by possession of a VWO diploma or comparable certificate.

For proficiency in English, the required level is CEFR C1 ('advanced'). CEFR stands for Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Level C1 is defined as: 'Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.'

This corresponds to:

- TOEFL internet-based 90, with minimum sub-score 23 for speaking,
- IELTS 6.5, with minimum sub-score 6.0 for speaking,
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE) minimum grade B,
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) any grade.

All PhD candidates must have passed one of the English language tests mentioned above within the past two years, except:

1. Dutch candidates.
2. Native English speaking candidates from the UK, Ireland, USA, Canada (except Quebec), Australia or New Zealand.
3. Candidates who can prove that the language of instruction in their MSc was completely in English.

## Appendix 2

### Application letter for the public defence of a PhD thesis at Wageningen University

(please download this letter from the PhD registration system Promis. This letter can only be downloaded after you have obtained obtaining formal admission to the PhD Programme by the Dean of Sciences on behalf of the Academic Board.)

**Add a copy of the admittance letter of the Dean of Sciences.**

Send this letter **and appendix** to:

**Doctorate's secretariat**

**Att. of ms. D. Alkema / ms. J. Sloot**

**Droevendaalsesteeg 2**

**6708 PB Wageningen**

**(Bode 15)**

**or by email: [promovendi@wur.nl](mailto:promovendi@wur.nl)**

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Rector Magnificus Wageningen University  
c/o Doctorate's secretariat (bode 15)  
Droevendaalsesteeg 2  
6708 PB Wageningen

Dear Rector Magnificus,

Hereby I request my PhD thesis and propositions to be judged for public defence according to the doctoral degree regulations of Wageningen University.

The title of my thesis is: <thesis title>

I declare that this work is original and has not been used to confer a doctorate elsewhere. In addition I declare to meet all the criteria of article 3.1a, 3.2 and 3.3 of the doctoral degree regulations of Wageningen University, and that I am formally admitted to the PhD Programme of Wageningen University by means of a letter of the Dean of Sciences d.d. <date>

My personal data is shown below:

<WUR-account>

<First Name(s)>

<Family Name>

<Home address>

<Phone mobile>

<Phone>

<E-mail>

<Date of birth>

<Place of birth>

<Field of study>

<Short summary of my thesis (2 sentences is enough)>

<Promotor(s)>

<Co-promotor(s)>

*(If a (co-)promotor is not a Wageningen UR staff member, please mention function/chair and affiliation with full address):*

With kind regards,

Signature PhD candidate, date

Signature (first) promotor, date

## **Appendix 3**

### **Learning targets for the PhD degree [doctorate]**

The recipient of the doctorate is capable of:

1. functioning as an independent practitioner of science, as shown by:
  - a. formulating scientific questions, whether based on social issues or scientific progress;
  - b. conducting original scientific research;
  - c. publishing articles in leading journals, publishing books with leading publishers or making a technical design;
2. integrating his or her own research in, or placing it within the framework of, the corresponding scientific discipline and against the background of a broader scientific area;
3. placing the research aims and research results in a societal context;
4. postulating concisely worded propositions in scientific and societal areas, formulated in such a way that they are subject to opposition and defence.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Design, format, reproduction and distribution of the thesis**

Appendixes 4a through 4d describe how the thesis should appear regarding its cover (4a), required title pages (4b), citation of sponsors, if any (4c) and the propositions (4d). Every deviation from these examples requires prior permission from the Academic Board.

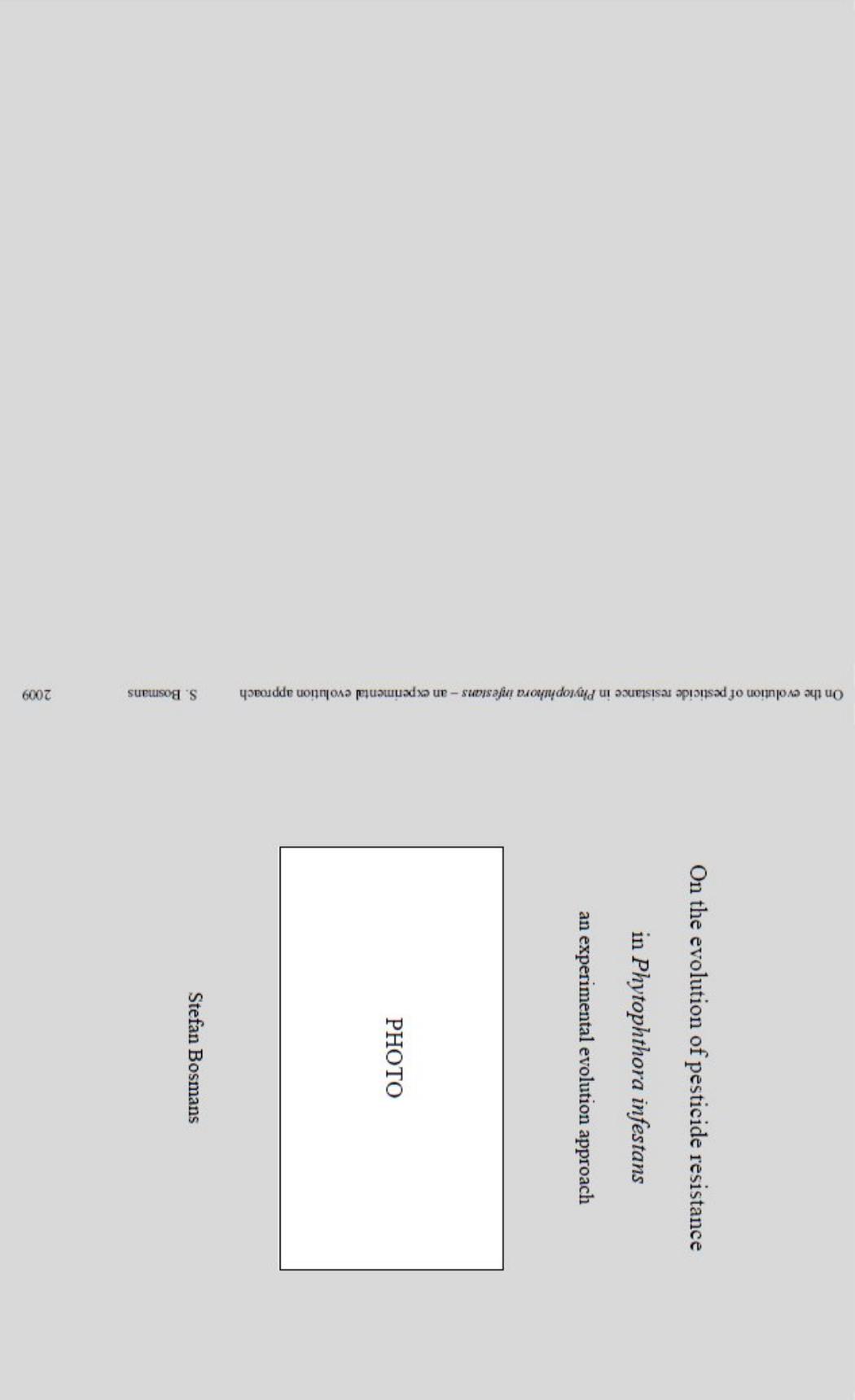
In the list of the promotor(s), the type of professor must be added in case of a personal chair or a special chair. Also the affiliation must be added.

In the list of the co-promotor(s), their function and affiliation must be added.

The other members of the thesis committee (the opponents) must be listed with their affiliation.

Two weeks before the public defence, the PhD candidate submits 15 copies of the thesis to the secretariat for PhD conferrals and 10 copies, including a PDF file and an abstract in Word format, to the Library.

Appendix 4a Cover



**The *Phytophthora infestans* avirulence  
gene *X5yz* and its potato counterpart *A6***

**Piet A. Ardappel**

### **Thesis committee**

#### **Promotors**

Prof. Dr F. Pietersen  
Personal chair at the Laboratory of Phytopathology  
Wageningen University

Prof. Dr F. Swartjes  
Professor of Phytopathology  
Wageningen University

#### **Co-promotor**

Dr P.A. Willis  
Associate professor, Animal Nutrition Group  
Wageningen University

#### **Other members**

Prof. Dr W.J. Stekels, Wageningen University  
Dr P. de Groot, University of Amsterdam  
Dr A. de Bruin, Keygene N.V., Wageningen  
Dr P. van Oost, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

This research was conducted under the auspices of the Graduate School of  
Experimental Plant Sciences

# **The *Phytophthora infestans* avirulence gene *X5yz* and its potato counterpart *A6***

**Piet A. Ardappel**

## **Thesis**

submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of doctor  
at Wageningen University  
by the authority of the Rector Magnificus  
Prof. Dr A.P.J. Mol,  
in the presence of the  
Thesis Committee appointed by the Academic Board  
to be defended in public  
on Wednesday 4 February 2013  
at 4 p.m. in the Aula.

Piet A. Ardappel

The *Phytophthora infestans* avirulence gene X5yz and its potato counterpart A6,  
83 pages.

PhD thesis, Wageningen University, Wageningen, NL (2013)

With references, with summary in English

ISBN 123-45-67890-123-4

**Appendix 4c - citation of sponsors** (last inside page of thesis)

The research described in this thesis was financially supported by The Dutch Financer.

Financial support from Wageningen University, the G. Schieter Foundation and Biomoney for printing this thesis is gratefully acknowledged.

## Appendix 4d - propositions

### Propositions

1. The general assumption that the mesophyll conductance to carbon dioxide in leaves of green plants is infinite cannot be maintained.  
(this thesis)
2. The partitioning of excited electrons to photosystems I and II is unbalanced in plants suffering from severe drought stress.  
(this thesis)
3. Zinc biofortification of cereals through plant breeding is inefficient, especially in the case of wheat.
4. For the analysis of the crop physiological background of tuber size distribution in potato it is essential to analyze phenomena of tuber set and tuber bulking at the level of the individual plant.
5. Moral acceptance of techniques of genetic modification plays a much smaller role in the debate on genetically modified organisms than proponents of such techniques assume.
6. The current debate in literature on the question whether green plants are intelligent suggests that plants at least have a greater ability to perceive signals from their environment and to learn from these signals than some scientists do.

Propositions belonging to the thesis, entitled

'Why electrons get excited and how to cool them down: on the thermodynamics of photosynthesis in green plants'.

Paul Herbert Droef  
Wageningen, 1 April 2013.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Protocol**

#### **[Location, date and time]**

Wageningen University Auditorium  
Gen. Foulkesweg 1a, Wageningen

### **Protocol for the thesis defence ceremony**

#### **General aspects**

The thesis defence ceremony has a long tradition. It is a high point in the practice of science, where new ideas are discussed and defended at a high level in public, preferably in an international context, between newly arrived and established scientists. Wageningen University believes the ceremony should take place in the most dignified fashion possible, and has therefore established behaviour requirements for the ceremony.

The PhD candidate may be accompanied by at most two paranymphs. The paranymphs may assist the PhD candidate in practical matters.

The ceremony is accessible to the public and is recorded and broadcasted on WUR-TV. The broadcast can be viewed and obtained on the website of Wageningen University: [wurtv.wur.nl](http://wurtv.wur.nl)

The video recording will be kept for three years and filed afterwards.

Wageningen University deals carefully with recorded video material and complies with all legal requirements. At Wageningen University, a Privacy Regulation is in force, which is published on the website of Wageningen University.

#### **Conventions**

The focus of the ceremony is the practice of science. It is therefore unsuitable for the PhD candidate, paranymphs or members of the thesis committee to make any religious, political or nationalistic statements by means of clothing, words, gestures or in any other way. Any other statements that do not show respect for the scientific and dignified character of the ceremony are also unsuitable.

#### **Formal titles of address**

Rector Magnificus (or his/her substitute) Mister Rector / Chair

Promotor Highly esteemed promotor

Co-promotor Highly esteemed co-promotor

Opponents Highly esteemed opponent

#### **Clothing regulations**

There are no emphatic clothing regulations, but compliance with the following guidelines is appreciated.

PhD candidate and paranymphs, gentlemen: white tie with black shoes and black socks

PhD candidate and paranymphs, ladies: festive clothing in subdued colours.

Thesis committee:

Professors, gentlemen: gown and cap or a dark suit with black shoes and black socks.

Professors, ladies: gown and cap or festive clothing in subdued colours.

Non-professors, gentlemen: dark suit or morning coat with black shoes and black socks.

Non-professors, ladies: festive clothing in subdued colours.

**Schedule:**

- 30 minutes before the beginning of the academic sitting:

Preparations:

Thesis committee goes to meeting room at the Aula to discuss opposition themes, propositions, time allocation.

PhD candidate, paranymphs and beadle go to the small auditorium

Public is admitted to the main auditorium

- 15 minutes before the beginning of the academic sitting:

Beadle brings the PhD candidate and the paranymphs to the main auditorium.

The PhD candidate makes a brief explanation of the PhD research, the paranymphs sit at the front of the auditorium. After the explanation, the paranymphs join the PhD candidate and stand on opposite sides of the podium.

- 2 minutes before the beginning of the academic sitting

Ceremonial procession of the thesis committee, Beadle going first; the procession is led by the Rector Magnificus or his substitute.

Thesis committee takes their seats on the podium.

The Rector Magnificus and the promotor/co-promotor(s) seat themselves behind the table at the right to the podium (as seen from the auditorium). The primary promotor sits to the left of the Rector Magnificus, the second promotor and/or co-promotor(s) sit to the right of the Rector.

The other members of the thesis committee take their places behind the table at the left of the podium (as seen from the auditorium), in the order in which they will oppose the PhD candidate, with the first opponent on the auditorium side.

The Beadle invites the PhD candidate and the paranymphs to take their places behind the lectern in the middle of the podium. The Beadle and the paranymphs take their places.

The Beadle leaves the auditorium.

- Beginning of the academic sitting

The Rector Magnificus opens the meeting by sounding the gavel and begins the ceremony as follows:

"I hereby open this ceremony, convened by the Academic Board of Wageningen University, in which <name of PhD candidate> is offered the opportunity of defending a thesis, with propositions, entitled '<title of thesis>'. The defence will take place before an examining committee appointed by the Academic Board as a prerequisite for conferring the degree of doctor. Good morning/afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you all to this graduation. My name is <name>. I am professor of <name chair> and member of the academic board. In this capacity I represent the rector magnificus today."

The Rector Magnificus opens the defence a ceremony by introducing the first opponent:

"I call on the first examiner, <name and job title of opponent>."

The Rector Magnificus introduces each subsequent member of the thesis committee to the PhD candidate when they ask their first question.

The opponents discuss their objections with the PhD candidate during the time that is allocated, which is monitored by the Rector Magnificus.

- 45 minutes after the beginning of the academic sitting

Beadle enters the auditorium, walks to the podium and announces that the time has elapsed with the words: "Hora est".

The Rector Magnificus ensures that any continuing discussion or argument is completed, including its defence, and adjourns the meeting as follows: "I adjourn the meeting; the examining committee will now withdraw for consultation."

Preceded by the Beadle, the procession leaves the auditorium and enters the meeting room.

The thesis committee decides whether or not to confer the doctorate and consults on the formulation of the degree classification (*judicium*), based on the draft text provided by the promotor. In any case, the text of the degree classification also refers to the thesis defence and the propositions.

- 60 minutes after the beginning of the academic sitting

The procession enters the auditorium, preceded by the Beadle. Everyone takes their places again.

The Rector Magnificus reopens the meeting and announces the decision that the thesis committee has taken on behalf of the Academic Board with the following words: "I hereby re-open this meeting. The Academic Board of Wageningen University, represented by the Rector Magnificus and <number> committee members appointed by the Academic Board, having noted the content of a thesis, entitled '<title of the thesis>' with propositions, having heard the defence of that thesis, has decided to confer the degree of doctor on: <name of PhD candidate>, born in <city of birth> on <birthdate> and to grant to him/her all rights and privileges ensuing from that doctorate by law and custom."

(If the degree is awarded cum laude: "Moreover, due to the exceptional capability in the independent practice of science shown by the candidate, the designation 'cum laude' is attached to this degree.")

"The Academic Board assumes that you accept your duty as a scientist to execute your future research ethically and with due diligence according to the Netherlands code of conduct of good scientific practice. I now invite the promotor (name) to acquit himself of his duty."

The promotor presents the degree certificate with the following words: "You have heard the decision of the Academic Board of Wageningen University to confer on you <name PhD candidate> the degree of doctor. It is now my honour to present you with the degree, signed by the Rector Magnificus and the promotor(s), and sealed with the Great Seal of Wageningen University. I first invite you to sign the degree as well. With this signature, you declare to act according to the scientific code of conduct in the future."

The promotor allows the new doctor to sign the certificate and continues with the words: "Allow me, Rector Magnificus, to offer my congratulations and to pass the judgement."

The *judicium* and laudation (*laudatio*) last no more than 5 minutes and are business-like in tone.

The Rector Magnificus congratulates the new doctor on behalf of the university, after which he closes the meeting. The ceremonial procession leaves the main auditorium, followed by the new doctor and the paranymphs. The promotor and copromotor have the first opportunity to congratulate the new doctor.

## Appendix 6

### Regulations for conferring Joint Doctorates at Wageningen University

#### Introduction

Wageningen University offers the opportunity to award joint doctorates. In 2010, Dutch universities were given the legal right to offer such Joint doctoral degrees as described in the WHW (Higher Education and Research Act). The development of joint doctorates is made possible by the Bologna treaty and is strongly supported by the European Union. At Wageningen University, joint doctorates can only be awarded as part of a joint PhD programme involving a number of PhD projects in a certain timeframe. Joint Doctorate Programmes must be approved by the Academic Board of Wageningen University. The guiding principle is that the requirements of a joint doctorate programme should meet the requirements of the institutions involved in awarding the degree of Doctor.

#### Procedure for a joint doctorate programme

Wageningen University awards joint doctorate degrees exclusively within the framework of a joint doctorate programme. These programmes must be approved by the Academic Board of Wageningen University prior to their start. The joint doctorate programme should consist of a number of PhD projects/candidates. The proposal for the joint doctorate programme should describe the entry requirements and end terms that are applicable to all candidates in the programme. The joint doctorate programme should at least meet the conditions described in the Doctoral degree regulations of Wageningen University for the regular PhD programme.

A proposal for a joint doctorate programme has to be submitted by the graduate school of the participating chair group(s) to the Academic Board before the start of the PhD projects.

The proposal for a joint doctorate programme should include:

1. a description of the partner institutions and existing collaborations;
2. a description of the common scientific goal, framework or issue, including the number of intended PhD projects, the added value of the programme for Wageningen University and the planned joint activities such as joint courses as part of the joint doctorate programme;
3. a description of the selection procedure for PhD projects and candidates
4. a format for the supervision and training plans;
5. a budget plan for the joint doctorate programme with special attention to arrangements governing PhD reimbursements;
6. the conditions for admission to the PhD programme, awarding the thesis and the thesis defence (location and procedure) based on the requirements set by Wageningen University at least. Within a programme, a fair distribution (a distribution reflecting the input from the institutions) of the defence ceremonies over the different locations should be pursued;
7. a proposal for the certificates to be issued, including supplements if applicable. Wageningen University will provide the format for joint degree certificates for PhD theses defended in Wageningen.

#### Explanation of items to be covered in application for joint doctorate programme

##### *Description of partner institutes*

Setting up a joint doctorate programme minimally requires comparable scientific quality of the partners. Large differences in quality may lead to discussions on a number of aspects concerning the joint doctorate programme, like the selection of candidates, PhD requirements, safeguarding quality, organisation of supervision, etc. Partners with

equivalent quality are more likely to agree on issues related to a joint doctorate programme. In cases where substantial differences in quality between partners exist, it is important to take this into consideration when PhD projects are defined. With weaker partners, a double degree could be a better option.

When more than two partners participate in a programme, it must be clearly defined before the start of the programme whether joint degrees are established with all partners or only with selected partners.

#### *Description of the scientific rationale*

The core of the joint doctorate programme consists of a common scientific goal, framework or issue around which the PhD programme is organised. This constitutes the foundation of the programme and should therefore be clearly elaborated and agreed upon among programme partners. Participation of the graduate school or chair group (hereinafter: participant) in the programme should create added value in terms of achieving the scientific goals of the participant. Thus, the programme should fit into the strategy of the participant as well.

#### *Selection procedure*

Develop a joint selection procedure for PhD candidates that at least pays attention to proficiency in the English language, scientific quality of the candidate and the selection procedure. These criteria are comparable to the criteria Wageningen University maintains. A well-defined selection procedure of both PhD projects and PhD candidates is essential. Elements in the selection of PhD candidates are to a high degree compatible with the standards already in use at Wageningen University. As a rule, they cover English proficiency, scientific quality of the candidate and quality of the research proposal. It is important to take notice of cultural differences between partners when it comes to the selection of candidates. For example, at APT (France) the daily supervisor is not involved in the selection of a PhD candidate, while at WU the daily supervisor plays a key role. Identification of these issues early on might prevent discussion during the implementation of the programme. Pay attention to cultural differences and agree upon the way the candidates are ranked.

#### *Supervision and training plans*

The supervision and training plan format should include information on:

- the primary and secondary supervisor and the frequency of contact. All institutions involved in the joint PhD project should provide supervision.
- the formal time the decision is made on the continuation of the PhD project after 12-18 months
- the training activities

#### *Budget plan*

In the Netherlands, universities are paid by the government based on the number of completed PhD theses. Considerable differences between countries exist with respect to this. The Dutch government is also very critical towards payments for PhD theses that were written in an international programme, such as joint doctorate programmes. In the current situation, a Dutch university receives payment for a PhD thesis only if the defence took place within the Netherlands. In cases where the defence takes place outside the Netherlands, no payment from the Dutch government is awarded. It is therefore extremely important when planning a budget for a joint doctorate programme to take national rules concerning PhD thesis payments into account and lay the agreements down in a budget plan. For WU groups, it is important to clarify this: all in all the number of PhD defences at WU should be a fair representation of WU's contribution to the programme (not too low but also not too high).

### *Conditions*

The requirements regarding the quality of the PhD candidate, the thesis and the defence should in any case meet the requirements set by Wageningen University for the regular (non-joint) degree or doctorate.

There will be a single PhD defence for a joint doctorate. The protocol for the PhD defence will depend on the actual location.

There will be a single evaluation procedure for a PhD thesis and for the defence within a joint PhD programme. The title pages to be used for a joint thesis are included in Appendix 1.

### Procedure when PhD defence takes place at WU

When the PhD thesis defence takes place at WU the standard timetable is used. The thesis and propositions must be approved by supervisors from both institutions before it can be sent to the examining committee. The examining committee consists of at least four members and includes at least one full professor from WU. The composition of the examining committee must be approved by the Academic Board of both institutions. The supervisor at WU is responsible for seeking approval from both institutions and will inform the secretariat for doctoral conferrals. The conditions set in the doctoral degree regulations of WU regarding the defence are minimum requirements. Modifications to the composition of the examining committee to meet the requirements of the partner institution are possible. The defence must follow the WU protocol.

### Procedure when PhD defence is at a partner institution

When the PhD thesis defence takes place at a partner institution, the standard time table of the partner institution is used. The thesis and propositions must be approved by supervisors from both institutions before it can be sent to the examining committee. The examining committee consists of at least four members and includes at least one full professor from WU. The composition of the examining committee must be approved by the Academic Board of both institutions. The supervisor from WU is responsible for seeking approval from WU no later than 6 months before the defence. Modifications to the composition of the examining committee of the partner institution might be requested to meet WU requirements. The defence will follow the protocol of the partner institution.

### *Certificate*

The candidate will receive one certificate to be issued by WU and the partner institution(s). The certificate will clearly state that the degree was awarded for a single thesis, written as part of a joint doctorate programme and in which partner institutions were involved who awarded the joint doctorate. A diploma supplement is provided with details on the joint doctorate programme. The thesis defence format at Wageningen University is presented in Appendix 3.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Required title pages for a joint doctorate thesis defended at Wageningen University**

#### **Thesis committee**

##### **Promotors**

Prof. Dr F. Pietersen  
Personal Chair at the Laboratory of Phytopathology  
Wageningen University

Prof. Dr F. Swartjes  
Professor of Phytopathology  
Partner institution

##### **Co-promotor**

Dr P.A. Willis  
Associate Professor, Animal Nutrition Group  
Wageningen University

##### **Other members**

Prof. Dr W.J. Stekels, Wageningen University  
Dr P. de Groot, partner institution  
Dr A. de Bruin, Keygene N.V., Wageningen  
Dr P. van Oost, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

This research was conducted as part of the joint PhD programme NAME.

# **The *Phytophthora infestans* avirulence gene *X5yz* and its potato counterpart *A6***

**Piet A. Ardappel**

## **Thesis**

submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the joint degree of Doctor  
at Wageningen University and PARTNER INSTITUTION  
by authority of the Rectores Magnifici  
Prof. Dr M.J. Kropff,  
and Prof. ANDERERECTOR  
in the presence of the  
Thesis Committee appointed by the Academic Boards  
to be defended in public  
on Wednesday 4 February 2013  
at 16.00 in the Aula.

## Appendix 2

### Registration and financing of output at WU

With respect to the registration of output, Wageningen University will act according to the rules agreed upon by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) on publications that involve more than one organisation:

- Each joint doctorate counts as a WU PhD graduation, irrespective of where the defence has taken place.
- The joint doctorate is registered in a way that prevents double counting of PhD theses at the European level.

With respect to the registration of the PhD thesis, the category JD (Joint Doctorate) will be added to the library thesis categories.

To determine whether or not a PhD graduation is eligible for funding (see below) the location of the PhD defence will be registered in PROMIS. In case of a defence at a location other than at Wageningen University the joint doctorate graduation will be considered a non-Wageningen defence.

## Appendix 3

### Format for joint certificate

**WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY**  
WAGENINGEN

UNIVERSITY FOR LIFE SCIENCES

Logo PARTNER

The Academic Board of Wageningen University and NAME PARTNER declare that

born

has been awarded the joint degree according to the Higher Education and Research Act 2002 14a WETPARTNERLAND

having defended a thesis, entitled

before an Examining Committee appointed by the Academic Boards

Wageningen, The Netherlands

The Academic Board

Examinee

# Joint Degree of Doctor

Ursula Ellendorf van xxxx xx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxx xxxxxxxx xxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

September 31, 1970, Gütersloh, Germany

Doctor

Genome-Wide Investigation into Roles of Arabidopsis Receptor-like xxxxxxxxxx  
Proteins in Pathogen Defence xxxx xx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx xxx xxxxxx

and has been awarded 'with distinction'

September 9, 2015

dep. Rector Magnificus Wageningen University,  
also on behalf of PARTNER

Supervisor(s)

Co-supervisor(s)