

The Chancellor of Ghent University has the honour of inviting you to attend the public defence of the doctoral dissertation of

ir. Branwen Peddi

Title of the doctoral dissertation:

Pluralising knowledge in agricultural development: the case for revitalising indigenous and local knowledges in Ghana

The public defence will take place on the 9th of January 2025 at 14:00 in the Azalea, room A0.1 at Campus Coupure (building A), Coupure Links 653, 9000 Ghent.

There will be a contiguous reception to which you are heartily invited. Please confirm your attendance before the 3rd of January by using the following link: <https://forms.gle/kmipLXCvkwcmW3bd8>

Dissertation supervisors

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Abstract of the doctoral research

Although farmers and local communities play a key role in our food systems, their local and indigenous knowledges are often marginalised within agricultural development, especially in postcolonial contexts. Scholars and practitioners alike are increasingly making the case for local actors to be included as valued experts, as well as for marginalized knowledges to be recognized and included. Yet how can a diversity of knowledges be brought together without (re)producing social and epistemic injustices, such as a prejudiced dismissal of knowledges or actors? This doctoral research seeks to answer this question through a literature review, empirical work from Ghana and a co-creative approach with a local farmer's organisation. It explores concepts such as local knowledge, local development and epistemic justice, as well as possible ways of moving forward towards more pluralistic and decolonial approaches to knowledge in agriculture.

This doctoral research was funded by FWO Vlaanderen and has been carried out in collaboration with the Abrono Organic Farming Project (ABOFAP), the Global Epistemologies and Ontologies (GEOS) research group at Wageningen University & Research, and the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Ghana.

Brief Curriculum Vitae

Branwen Peddi is a doctoral researcher at the INSPIRA research group within the Department of Agricultural Economics of Ghent University (Belgium). She holds a Master's degree of Ghent University in Bioscience Engineering, with a specialisation in Agricultural Sciences. She also studied Development and Rural Innovation (MSc) at Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands. She draws from this interdisciplinary background in her doctoral studies which focuses on more just ways of pluralising knowledge within agriculture. Her research interests lie in agricultural knowledge systems, philosophy of science, African philosophies, epistemic justice, and transdisciplinary research. Besides her research, she has been engaged in several initiatives that seek to promote a more inclusive and equitable science for society. She has been part of the Working Group of diversity and inclusion at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering (Be4Diversity) and currently volunteers for Ekoli, an association that strives to make science education more accessible for all youth.