



PCGIN Stakeholder Meeting 2026

PGRO Conference Centre, Tuesday 3rd February 2026
09:45 – 16:00

09:45 – 10:30 **Arrival and Tea/Coffee**

10:30 **Welcome by Janneke Balk**, Co-lead of PCGIN

Updates on PCGIN Research (Chair: Roger Vickers)

10:35 Janneke Balk (JIC): “Exploiting the new pea EMS population for disease and nutritional traits”

10:50 Donal O’Sullivan (U of Reading): “Trait discovery using PCGIN genetic resources in faba bean”

11:05 Tom Wood (NIAB): “Exploring novel sources of foot and root rot resistance in faba bean”

11:20 Catherine Howarth (IBERS): “Automated multisensor platforms for large scale drought stress assessment in pea germplasm collections”

11:35 Noam Chayut (JIC) & Phil Howell (NIAB): “Legume germplasm collections in the UK”

Perspectives from Industry (Chair: Tom Wood)

11:50 – 12:10 Andrew Whiting (Birds Eye): “Commercialisation of R and D”

12:10 – 12:30 Justin Barrett (Askew & Barrett): “The importance of quality for gross profit margins and customer requirements”

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch and Networking**

Perspectives from Industry (Chair: Charlotte White)

13:30 – 13:50 Bryony Graham (‘Pulse Pioneer’ with the NCS project): “Small Scale, Big Impact”

13:50 – 14:10 Josiah Meldrum (Hodmedods): “From having a moment to building a movement”

Student and ECR Talks (Chair: Rosanne Maguire)

14:10 – 15:00 (5 minute talks & 2 minute questions)

- Emily Guest (Cranfield University): “Climate-smart nitrogen management: Sensor-based insights into legume-based crop rotations”
- Oona Hinshelwood (Quadram Institute): “Gut microbiome-mediated health benefits of pea bioactives”
- Samuel Bruty (JIC): “Recipea for a modern microbiome: uncovering the genetic basis of domestication linked microbiome traits in *Pisum*”
- Charlotte Apsey (University of Cambridge): “Optimising the pollination of *Vicia faba*”
- Lucy Bentall (University of Cambridge): “The potential of ‘persistent’ viruses to enhance performance of *Vicia faba*”

Invited Speakers (Chair: Janneke Balk)

15:00 – 15:30 Aimee Fowkes (Fera Science): “Viruses in peas and beans”

15:30 – 16:00 Tom Crocker (Met Office): “Future climate risks for UK Legumes” (Online)

16:00 **Meeting Close**