



## **Are you interested in the effectiveness of Agri-Environmental-Schemes to increase insect and plant diversity in German Agriculture?**

Do you like field work in a unique location in Havelland, Brandenburg?

Do you want to learn more about “the small ones that run the world”?

### **Bachelor or Master project possibilities**

Insect population and diversity are suffering under a crucial decline due to intertwined drivers: Loss of habitat, intensification and simplification of agriculture, pesticide use, invasive species and light pollution. To counteract this decline especially in agriculture, Agri-Environmental-Schemes (AES) were established such as flower strips, hedges, set aside which shall function as shelter, offer floral resources and hibernation possibilities for various insect taxa. Recently, the established, short-living flower strips have been criticized to act as an “ecological trap”, hence, attract insects without long term benefits.

In the “Linde-Experiment”, we are investigating the effectiveness of the already established flower strips and compare them to an innovative design “Rolling Wildflower Block (RWB)” to increase insect diversity.

#### **Project ideas for the following research area:**

- Looking at diversity and abundance for selected taxonomic group (butterflies, grasshoppers, spiders, farmland birds, bats etc ...) in different structural elements/effectiveness of AES
- Ecosystem functions: Does biodiversity attracted to wildflower strips enhance e.g. decomposition of organic matter? Experiment.
- Own project idea connecting to the Linde-Experiment,

Depending upon your time and project interest, projects can be conducted in summer 2022 and 2023.  
**Interested?**

If you want to know more or are interested in the project, please contact: [vera.kaunath@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:vera.kaunath@uni-potsdam.de)

