

Master Thesis Project



Ecosystem functioning in response to habitat diversity

We are looking for an enthusiastic MSc student who will be working on how habitat diversity affects ecosystem functioning in the Swiss farmland. The project involves fieldwork, laboratory work and is part of the National monitoring program of farmland biodiversity (www.allema.ch, based at Agroscope, Zürich).

Due to intensification of agricultural practices farmland biodiversity has experienced a strong decline over the past 50 years. There is evidence for a parallel decline of ecosystem functioning, but its underlying mechanisms are still poorly understood.

In this MSc project, you would focus on how habitat diversity affects ecosystem functioning. You will use field sites of the ALL-EMA project (www.allema.ch) and experimentally study the effect of habitat diversity on ecosystem functioning by establishing mesocosm experiments on some of the sites. In the project you will have the opportunity to interact with practitioners as well as team members of the ALL-EMA project.

Requirements: Interest in ecology and faunistics of terrestrial invertebrates, German/French and English language skills, valid driver's licence and driving practice. Ideally, the MSc project starts early 2020.

Contact/Supervision: PD Dr. Eva Knop (eva.knop@ieu.uzh.ch), www.knoplabor.ch



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