Master thesis in the KOOPERATIV project:

Effects of landscape-scale flower field area on stability of pollination services in oilseed rape fields over five years

In the project KOOPERATIV (www.uni-goettingen.de/kooperativ/project), we established overall 250 ha of perennial wildflower fields in experimental landscapes. In this master thesis, the is aim to investigate how landscape-scale availability of flower fields affects pollinators and pollination services in oilseed rape fields by using project data (2022-2025) in addition to conducting your own field work (2026). This unique long-term data set will allow you to analyze stability of pollinator abundance and pollination service provision across five years. The outcomes of the results will be an important scientific contribution to ecosystem service research and will also be used to inform practical conservation. For example, the results will be directly communicated to farmers in our project network and will also be used to inform future agricultural policies.





Master thesis tasks:

- Conducting transect walks to monitor pollinators
- Installation and deconstruction of pollinator exclusion cages in experimental fields
- Harvesting oilseed rape plants from experimental fields and analyzing yield parameters of oilseed rape in the lab
- Statistical analysis of data sets on pollinators and pollination services (2022-2026)

Opportunities: You will gain experiences in fieldwork with various ecological methods, work in a highly motivated team outdoors or in the lab and are part of an interdisciplinary cutting-edge project. Moreover, you will get the chance to work on a long-term data set investigating important questions at the interface between ecology and agriculture.

Requirements: A German driving license is mandatory for fieldwork.

Time period: The timing of fieldwork will depend on the oilseed rape flowering 2026: Installation of cages will be done before flowering (late March/early April), transect walks during flowering (April/May), cage deconstruction after flowering (May) and harvesting in June.

If you are interested, please contact us for further details:

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