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Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Simone Graeff-Hönninger

Announcement of a Master Thesis

(Thesis can be written in English or German)

Effect of sowing date and row spacing on the cultivation of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)

This thesis is advertised within the framework of the research project "**Real laboratory chickpeas - Establishment of chickpea cultivation in Baden-Württemberg for the sustainable supply of regional, high-quality proteins (CICERO)**".



Chickpea is an important food grain legume with high nutritive value, and lately is gaining more attention due to the consumption shift towards a more plant-based diet. Determining an optimal sowing period is crucial for ensuring plant maturity and grain ripeness. Sowing too early could lead to high plant losses and consequently yield losses if temperature requirements of certain varieties are not met or cold tolerance is too low. A too late sowing date could risk plant maturity affecting grain yields and nutritional grain contents. In addition, the number of branches are affected by row spacing and the distance between plants in a row. With small row spacing, crops close faster, but mechanical weed control is less possible there. With wider spacing, on the other hand, mechanical weed control can be applied.

In this regard, the thesis topic aims:

- ✓ To investigate the effect of sowing date on the phenological development of the chickpea varieties, grain yield and grain quality.
- ✓ To evaluate how row spacing determine the natural competitive power of chickpea against weeds, and the effect of row spacing on grain yield and quality.

The aims are to be achieved by conducting field work at the research station Ihinger Hof from middle of April until end of July 2023.

If you are interested, please contact me.

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