

**Graduate student position – M.Sc. at Lethbridge Research Centre,  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

I am seeking candidates for a M.Sc. position to conduct research on a joint project with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The student will be enrolled at the University of Lethbridge, and must meet all entry requirements for the graduate program.

**Project Title:** Evaluation of management strategies for pea root rot

**Brief Project Description:** Peas are subject to root rot pathogens that build up in the soil over several years and reduce plant stands and yields. The research project will entail evaluating management practices, such as cultivar type, seed treatment and soil amendments, on disease and yield in different soil zones throughout the province of Alberta. To ensure adequate disease pressure in field trials, trials will be conducted in commercial pea production fields that have been identified as a high risk for developing root rots. The position will be based at AAFC-Lethbridge with field sites at Lethbridge Research Centre and off-site trials at Bow Island, Drumheller and Lacombe, Alberta. The position will require extensive travel in the summer months, and candidate must possess a valid driver's license. Lab work will entail quantification of pathogen DNA in root samples using qPCR, and thus experience in molecular biology techniques is an asset. The project is funded until March 2017.

**Supervisors:** Dr. Jim Thomas at U of L, Dr. Syama Chatterton (AAFC-Lethbridge)

**Start Term:** January or May 2014

**Qualifications:**

- B.Sc. in biology, agriculture, plant pathology or related field
- Knowledge of plant diseases or agriculture
- Familiarity with statistics and experimental design
- Previous field work experience is an asset
- A valid driver's license is required

Please e-mail your résumé and a cover letter describing your research experience and interests along with names and contact information of two referees to the following contact:

Dr. Syama Chatterton

syama.chatterton@agr.gc.ca