

M.Sc. Student Opportunity: Modeling Sclerotinia Stem Rot Risk in Canola, Dept of Soil Science, University of Manitoba

A Growing Forward 2 research project through Weather INnovations will research, develop, and implement a suite of operational weather-based decision support tools for canola to benefit Western Canadian canola producers. One of these tools will include a weather-based sclerotinia stem rot (SSR) risk model to aid producers with fungicide treatment decisions. The model will contribute to improved crop management, by identifying weather conditions conducive to infection by SSR. The project is underway with observations of weather and SSR at multiple locations through the 2014 growing season. A graduate student, who can start either January or May 2015, will continue the monitoring in 2015 and develop models that use weather information from 2014 and 2015 to quantify SSR levels in canola. The model will be tested using weather and disease observations collected in 2016. The intention is to develop an operational model that will be available to growers and industry along with real-time weather data for use as a decision support tool. This will benefit growers through improved risk management and profitability.

Applications are encouraged from students with strong analytical and field skills, and interests in agricultural research with an emphasis on development of weather-based decision support tools. The funding for a minimum stipend of \$18,000 per year for 2.5 years is secured. There is potential for additional support through scholarships. Prospective candidates can submit an application to Dr. Paul Bullock (Paul.Bullock@umanitoba.ca). Please include a cv, transcript and cover letter.