

**What is driving crop rotations and where are they heading to?
What crops do interact in what way and thereby impact rotations?**

Workshop, June 29, 15:30 – 16:30

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I. Background

- (1) Non-agricultural experts very often wonder why crop farmers often do produce a (wide) range of crops even though economic performance does suggest that only a few are superior. At the other hand, there is often discussion about rather narrow rotations, which do cause issues e.g. in managing weeds and crop diseases.
- (2) Against this background we want to devote one session on the considerations of growers when deciding about their rotation in order to understand drivers and to better assess the limitations and incentives re. crop choices and likely changes.

II. Goals

- (1) Illustrate the diversity of crop rotations for different sites.
- (2) Make explicit what factors growers have to consider when making crop choices.
- (3) Get an understanding about adjustment options of growers towards changing relative prices for outputs and inputs and crop price ratios.

III. Key questions to address

- (1) What are positive and negative interactions between different crops (in biological terms) and what is the economic value of those interactions?
- (2) Do crops differ in terms of (a) market risks, (b) production risks and if so, what are economic implications and to what degree and how do those differences steer growers decision making in rotations?
- (3) Do other aspects such as peak times in machinery use and labor input have an impact on crop choices and if so, what are economic threshold prices (minimum price premiums) to overcome those limitations?