



REPORT

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CRDF Completes FY 2010-11 Contract Processing and Billing

At the close of fiscal year 2010-11 on June 30, 2011, CRDF had a number of research contract payments and deliverables pending, resulting from late starts on initial contract approvals, and delays in submission of progress reports and invoicing by the investigators and their institutions. In order to complete processing and payment of these FY 2010-11 contract obligations, we worked with FDOC to amend our 2010-11 funding contract and FDOC authorized extension of spending authority from July 1 through December 31, 2011, adequate time to complete these transactions.

Contract invoicing, reporting and payments have been completed for the 2010-11 fiscal year obligations. Contracts were completed and closed during this period, and in some cases, projects closed ahead of the original schedule. Other contracts were amended to allow for continuation, and in many of these cases, review and negotiation of budgets led to budget reductions. Residuals from unexpended budgets were captured during this period and at the same time, contract extensions were approved, projecting expenses for these projects into future budget periods.

As a result of the management of pending contract obligations by CRDF staff, and with cooperation of institutions conducting the research and FDOC, CRDF was able to accrue approximately \$1 million in net savings compared to the approved FY 2010-11 contract budgets. In addition, nearly \$500,000 of expense was negotiated forward to resolve contract delays by way of no-cost-extensions. The latter no-cost-extensions obligate CRDF to meet these expenses in future budget years, and thus are not true net savings.

Through diligent management of CRDF contracts and working closely with the research scientists and their institutions, CRDF has closed the FY2010-11 contract period with considerable savings that will revert to FDOC for their redirection to marketing programs. In addition, we have modified our research application and contracting processes to further streamline management of the industry's research portfolio. Through these improvements,

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY, 2012

12	Governance Committee	Phone Meeting	3:30 pm
17	Finance & Audit Comm.	CRDF office - Rm 24	10:30 am
19	Industry Research Coordinating Comm.	CREC - BHG Rm 3	1:00 pm
24	Board of Directors Annual Meeting	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:30 am

FEBRUARY, 2012

21	Research Management Committee	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:00 am
28	Board of Directors	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:30 am

our goal is to reduce avoidable delays in contracting and invoicing, leading to a more efficient close at the end of FY2011-12. We believe that this demonstrates responsible management by CRDF in the interest of growers and others whose funds we are investing to develop and deliver solutions to HLB and citrus canker.

Psyllid management via parasites being considered in California: Are we interested here in Florida?

The recent report from California of releases of the Asian citrus psyllid parasite, *Tamarixia radiata* in southern California as a strategy to suppress ACP has caught the attention of the Florida citrus industry. Scientists at UC, Riverside made the first releases of the parasite in the state December 20, 2011 on the UCR Campus (<http://newsroom.ucr.edu/2819>). Those involved are hopeful that establishment of the parasite will help control the spread of ACP in California.

This news has raised the question of whether this approach is appropriate to consider in Florida, and offers us an opportunity to remind the industry that their research funding was committed to biological control of the psyllid 12 years ago.

Following discovery of ACP in Florida in 1998, UF, IFAS immediately undertook a project to locate and import natural enemies, with support from the FCPRAC and the grower box tax. Dr. Marjorie Hoy from the Entomology Department in Gainesville worked with international col

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leagues and with FDACS, DPI to ship in, clear through quarantine, lab test, and ultimately release wasps of the species *Tamarixia radiata*. This species (same one being released in California) had been reported to be a factor in population regulation of the psyllid in China and other areas where the psyllid has been long established. The parasite was approved for field release in Florida in 1999. UF and FDACS worked together to rear and release the parasite throughout Florida in citrus groves. The parasite established readily, and field research was begun by Dr. Phil Stansly at UF, IFAS, Southwest Research and Education Center, Immokalee to evaluate the establishment and spread of the parasite. He and his staff worked on this biological control project for a number of years, documenting the status of the parasite and other natural enemies of ACP.

In summary, the parasite was established and spread in Florida, but rarely reaches levels in psyllid populations that exert control or reverse population increase of rapidly-expanding seasonal populations of psyllids. We are disappointed to not experience the level of parasite response to populations of psyllid that has been reported in

other areas where the parasite occurs. FCPRAC continued to fund IFAS and Dr. Stansly for several years to look for other geographic collections of the parasite, as well as other parasites. In addition, Dr. Stansly and his team evaluated ladybird beetles and other predators already present in Florida. This followed on work that had already been published by a UF post-doctoral scientist, Dr. John-Paul Machaud. Some of our native ladybird beetles feed on psyllids but did not seem to respond quickly enough to regulate populations.

In ensuing years, Dr. Stansly and his colleagues brought additional collections of *Tamarixia radiata* into Florida from other locations around the world, and were able to evaluate and release some of these collections. Most recently, some growers have actively taken up rearing and release of *Tamarixia radiata* to increase its role in ACP suppression. Dr. Stansly and his team have published and presented a lot of this work and it has been highlighted in industry magazines. We obviously will keep abreast as California proceeds with efforts to establish *T. radiata*.

ANNUAL AND FINAL REPORTS

Following are the annual and final reports on CRDF-funded research projects which have been posted online since our last issue. The full report can be accessed from the 'link' button. These, and interim progress reports on all projects as well as projects funded by the California Research Board and Texas Citrus Producers Board can be found online at www.citrusrdf.org>GROWERS>RESEARCH UPDATES.

LINK	TITLE	RESEARCHER	HEADLINE
	Development of SSR markers for detection, genotyping, phenotyping and genetic diversity assessment of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter</i> strains in Florida	Lin	Genetic markers of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>
	Survival of <i>Xanthomonas citri</i> ssp. <i>citri</i> (Xcc) to estimate risk of citrus canker transmission by infected fruit	Graham	Citrus canker strains survive in biofilms on leaves and fruit
	Soil applied Systemic acquired resistance (SAR) for control of citrus canker on young trees	Graham	Several soil applied SARs are effective for canker control
	Transmission of HLB by citrus seed	Graham	HLB isn't transmitted to plants from seed of HLB-infected trees
	Does systemic acquired resistance (SAR) control HLB disease development?	Graham	SAR does not control HLB in young citrus trees
	Top 100 Antibiotics: Screening Effective Chemical Compounds against Citrus HLB Bacterium, <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Powell	Effective compounds against Las bacteria
	Manipulating SA-mediated defense signaling to stimulate broad-spectrum resistance to HLB and other diseases in citrus	Lu	Overexpress citrus SA regulators to increase HLB resistance
	Genome-enable metabolic reconstruction of <i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i> and its usefulness culturing and controlling the pathogen	Triplett	Cultured relative suggests means to culture <i>Liberibacter</i> .