



REPORT

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PLANNING FOR THE CRDF 2013-14 FISCAL YEAR

With the end of FY 2012-13 approaching, CRDF is working through the process of preparing next year's plans and budgets. These activities engage most committees of the Foundation and will culminate with the final budget for FY2013-14 being presented for approval at the June 13 Board meeting during the Annual Grower Meeting at Bonita Springs.

Revenues to support the FY2013-14 budget are dependent upon grower box tax collections and other funds, as is the case each year. With greater than normal fruit loss through drop this season, the projections for FY2013-14 will need to be adjusted accordingly, leading to lower projections for funding from the research box tax. Similarly, the Florida Citrus Commission will have a reduced budget to support the Florida Department of Citrus advertising and marketing programs, as well as their commitment to research through CRDF. On a very positive note, CRDF is planning for inclusion of the \$8 million one-year budget allocation made by the Florida Legislature to support short-term research and delivery projects targeted at HLB. When the state budget is approved by the Governor, these funds will be available to CRDF through contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), as are the research box tax funds. Elements of projected expense and revenues are being incorporated into the draft budget for Research as well as Commercial Product Delivery elements of CRDF for consideration at May and June meetings.

The Citrus Advanced Technology Program (CATP) research program has been completed for 2012, and 33 new projects have been established. With a number of continuing projects entering years 2 and 3, the portfolio at the beginning of FY2013-14 will be comprised of about 140 projects. Many of the new projects build on results of research in the earlier years of CATP, and are focused on bringing earlier results closer to solutions.

There are a number of budget goals that are being addressed as the projects and budgets are being planned. Some of these are discussed here:

Continue promising research: As with any sustained effort to provide solutions to a complex problem, research and evaluation continuity leads to progressive understanding and solutions. Following that standard, CRDF research funding processes are directed to identification of the various pathways to short- to long-term solutions, and to distribute resources in ways that maintain a balanced approach across the time line and distrib-

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JUNE, 2013

11	Finance & Audit Meeting	CREC, Lake Alfred	10:00 am
13	Box Tax Advisory Council Meeting	FCIAC, Bonita Springs	1:30 pm
13	Board of Directors Meeting	FCIAC, Bonita Springs	1:45 pm

uted among vector, pathogen and host plant areas of research. Presentations on the research projects most often are organized along these timelines and categories of research which follow the original research plans.

Accelerate short-term promising research: The need to find shortcuts to deliver solutions that will maintain the current citrus productivity in Florida is illustrated by tree decline and fruit loss evidence appearing this season. Thus, a significant momentum is directed to this area, including management tools to maintain tree health in infected groves, while managing the combination of stresses that are exacerbated by infection with HLB. Similarly, priority attention is being directed to short-term tools that can be used to bring along new plantings and resets in mature groves. The short-term efforts in both the research project portfolio, and those projects identified for acceleration by the Commercial Product Delivery Program, are the specific focus of the 2013-14 Legislative Initiative and will be targeted with the resulting funds.

Analyze areas of research and directions forward: Evaluation of progress to date is a valuable step in keeping research targeted towards solutions, and CRDF will be organizing formal and informal activities to analyze various research priority areas. The analysis will identify progress, utility of results to date, level of effort and resources, and finally, what can be done to further accelerate the specific area. During recent years, these analyses have resulted in refining the directions for individual and group projects, and in some cases, have identified specific objectives to be included in subsequent proposals.

The analysis described above also allows CRDF to focus efforts of existing teams and encourage new teams in areas with common objectives. When exploring new research areas, it often is most effective to engage multiple, competitive approaches in research, as it is in other business models. As progress is made, however, concentrating the effort on the most productive pathways becomes advisable to push forward more effectively and to obtain best use of resources. This approach is fitting in the search for citrus disease solutions, where progress leads to synergies among teams, and allows new collaborations to form. CRDF encour-

ages and promotes this through the analysis of project areas.

Keep the organization as efficient and responsive as possible:

The Florida citrus industry grappled with the structure to support research from the beginning of response to HLB, and identified the need for a responsive and efficient mechanism. As CRDF emerged, the elements of an annual research project solicitation, matched with short-term project lifespans of only up to 3 years, has contributed to the flexibility to explore new directions each year, to refresh project teams as they define project goals, and to choose the best scientific merit and applicability to solving the problem. This system now illustrates how building blocks can be added or removed continuously through a specific process to allow the best work to emerge. At the same time, it provides the flexibility to enhance existing projects and seek new projects when appropriate to redirect efforts or to fill identified needs.

COMMERCIAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECENTLY RENAMED

In an effort to better reflect the role of the committee, the Board of Directors approved revisions to the By-Laws at their April 23rd, 2013 meeting, changing the committee name 'Commercial Product Development Committee' to 'Commercial Product Delivery Committee'. This name better reflects the purpose of the committee to find pathways to and remove obstacles from the transition of research results to products that can be used by the industry.

Like the Research Program described above, the Commercial Product Delivery Program strives to organize its projects according to priority and level of involvement required by CRDF. The committee began its efforts by designating eight projects for CPDC oversight, and has developed a roadmap and time-

lines for these projects. With time, additional projects have been added, and this spring, three new projects were added: testing of candidate HLB-tolerant rootstocks; evaluation of HLB escapes in declining groves; and how plant growth regulators might influence tree health and fruit retention. These projects will be considered for enhanced support from the Legislative Initiative as the funding becomes available. Our goal with CPD projects, like research projects, is to accelerate those that will lead to short-term solutions to the industry.

Details of some of these projects will be highlighted at the Educational Seminar during the Annual Citrus Grower Meeting in Bonita Springs on June 13.

2012-13 Harvest Season Pre-Harvest Fruit Drop Survey, Request from Dr. Gene Albrigo, UF, IFAS CREC

With the increasing numbers of HLB infected trees and the high pre-harvest drop rates presumably caused by HLB and experienced by most growers this year, it is important to understand why HLB is causing heavy pre-harvest fruit drop and why some grove blocks, even with HLB, did not have heavy drop. We need grower help to identify citrus blocks with very little drop and those with severe drop and the grove conditions and/or production practice levels associated with either good or bad fruit retention. Survey data from more blocks greatly increases our chance of finding significant relationships. We hope we can associate some production practices with good fruit retention and make the citrus industry aware of these important practices or conditions so that growers can reduce pre-harvest fruit drop in the coming seasons. Please go to: <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu> and in the 'Latest News' column click on the Citrus Growers Fruit Drop Survey, read the instructions and complete the survey in one of the three methods available.

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 citrusrdf.org>GROWERS>SEARCH PROGRESS REPORTS.

LINK	TITLE	RESEARCHER
	Characterization of a putative insect-transmission determinant/virulence gene (hysl) of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' (Las)	Duan
	Development and Delivery of Comprehensive Management Plans for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Control in Florida Citrus	Stansly
	Thresholds for Vector Control in Young Citrus Treated for symptoms of HLB with a Nutrient/SAR Package	Stansly
	Mangement of Psylla in Tree Fruit Crops, Using RNA Interference	Cox