

Integration of New Federal Funding Initiatives into CRDF Programs and Goals

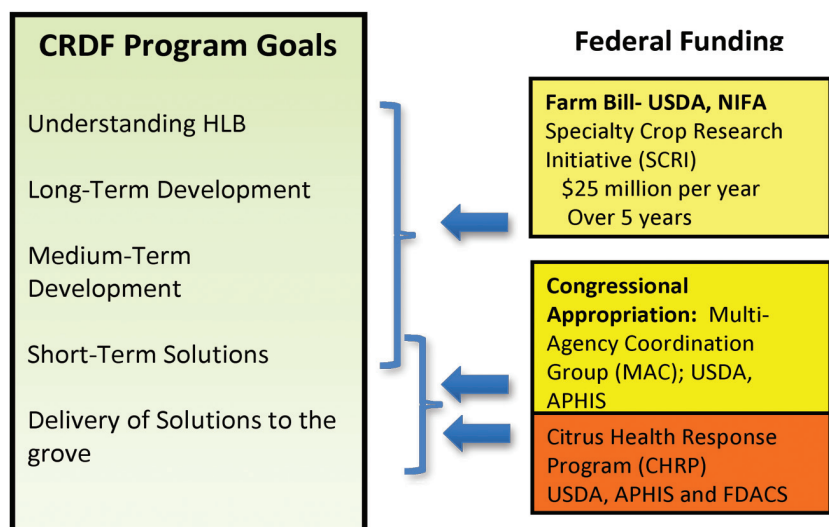


By Harold Browning

With implementation of new federal funding to support research and delivery of solutions for huanglongbing (HLB) in U.S. citrus, there are many questions about how the funding interacts with established programs already underway to meet these needs. At the recent Citrus Expo in Fort Myers, there was a series of brief presentations at the beginning of the educational seminar to update attendees on these programs and their interactions.

The diagram below shows how federal funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative; through USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Multi-Agency Coordination Group; and through USDA, APHIS Citrus Health Response Program is being coordinated to complement and accelerate existing programs managed by the Citrus Research and Development Foundation in Florida (green box below) and similarly by the Citrus Research Board in California.

The emergence of substantial additional funding comes at a critical time when Florida crop size has been reduced and thus is providing less research support, and when the need for field evaluation and delivery of solutions has never been greater. The federal programs are well underway, with elected officials, agency representatives and researchers all understanding the need for speed in providing tools to reverse the HLB-induced decline of Florida citrus trees, and to prevent introduction and rapid spread of the disease in other U.S. citrus-producing states.



The roles and responsibilities of CRDF are changing, with greater need to coordinate the multiple opportunities for development and testing of HLB research ideas, as well as moving research results forward to field trial, regulatory consideration where appropriate, and ultimately, commercial adoption. In this changing environment, CRDF continues to provide the leadership necessary to bring all of these efforts together for Florida growers.

Harold Browning is Chief Operations Officer of CRDF. The foundation is charged with funding citrus research and getting the results of that research to use in the grove.

