CITRUS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

QUARTERLY & FINAL PROGRESS REPORT FORM: Control of Citrus Greening, Canker & Emerging Diseases of Citrus

▶ SELECT PERIOD June 2020

(●) *Quarterly Report* ( ) *Final*

Proposal Title

Citrus Transformation Facility remains integral part of the efforts to combat HLB disease through production of transgenic Citrus plants

Today's Date: 07/15/2020

Sponsoring Organization (drop-down): Citrus Research and Development Foundation

Category (drop down): Plant Improvement

ABSTRACT (750-word Executive Summary-public report-do not disclose proprietary information or intellectual property)

In the three month period between April and July of 2020, the activity in the Juvenile Tissue Citrus Transformation Facility (JTCTF) was low due to special regime of work established by the University of Florida (UF) as a response to COVID19 epidemic. No new transformation experiments were done and no orders were received.

Until May, the work done in the JTCTF included only the activities performed by the essential personnel. The essential personnel were in the lab five times a week for the period of few hours. Under such conditions I organized the employees to take care of plants in the greenhouse and in the lab. In May, UF approved low level (Phase1) re-opening of JTCTF. Because of the surface area of the lab where most of the activities of JTCTF take place, being in Phase1 meant that one employee can be in the lab at the time. Such time table with insufficient presence of labor force does not allow for new experiments to be done. I organized the staff to process the material and the data from experiments that have already been completed. For some experiments where material was abandoned in early stages of experiments, we lost both the material and the data. There were experiments where we were able to salvage both.

Altogether, we produced 26 transgenic plants this quarter. These plants included 22 Duncan grapefruit and four Valencia oranges. These plants were the results of work on six different orders/vectors: BB3, BB4, ZM15-2, ZM16, ZM17, and NADR2.

My efforts to transition JTCTF to EBA unit were mostly hampered by the low level of assistance from UF administrators in Gainesville and unclear situation with funding. I hope that within the next quarter I will have final version of EBA form or the transition will be delayed until January of next year. In May, JTCTF lost a long-term full-time employee. I have asked an employee who is already employed as an OPS in the facility to take over some of the responsibilities until more permanent solution is reached.

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Organization CREC-University of Florida/IFAS

Sponsor Project Number 18-066C

Project Duration (years 2 *Year of Project* 2

% Completion of Objectives 75.00%

CITRUS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.