



REPORT

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Attend Workshop to Learn About How HLB Research Will Get Regulatory Approval

The CRDF Commercial Product Development Committee (CPDC) was established to facilitate moving research results into use in Florida citrus in the shortest period of time. Many of the targeted solutions to HLB will likely involve the need to seek regulatory approval and/or commercialization for full use by citrus growers. The CPDC is anticipating this need, and has engaged its members and others in the industry with appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies to create a pathway for pursuit of regulatory processes. To that end, **a Workshop on Regulatory Processes has been scheduled in Florida on Thursday, March 22, 2012, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. to be held at the Ben Hill Griffin Hall, UF, IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.** The purpose of this workshop is to introduce to and start the education process for the entire Florida citrus industry on rules and regulations associated with regulatory approval processes for the commercialization of disease solution(s). CRDF is hosting this workshop to more fully explore the regulatory processes that might be relevant to evaluation and deployment of modified plants that could contain anti-microbial peptides or other non-citrus (or citrus) genetic material. While this is not the only technology that is being pursued, the goal is to provide more in-depth, focused discussion and training applicable to any solution during this workshop.

Representatives of several US regulatory agencies will participate, including:

- USDA/APHIS
 - Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) – responsible for protection of plant health
 - Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) – safeguards agriculture and natural resources
- EPA - Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) – registration of all pesticides
- FDA - Protecting and promoting food safety and health

UPCOMING MEETINGS

FEBRUARY, 2012

28	Board of Directors	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:30 am
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MARCH, 2012

22	Regulatory Workshop	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:00 am
27	Board of Directors	CREC - BHG Rm 3	9:30 am

Topics will include each agency's presentation of rules & regulations related to the approval processes for various disease solutions. They also will present case studies to help illustrate the steps and timing involved in seeking regulatory approval.

Please plan to attend this important workshop! *Prior registration is not required, but to plan lunch it would be helpful to have a count. Please leave a message at 863-956-5894 or email anowicki@citrusrdf.org with the number attending.*

CRDF Applies to USDA for Funds to Support Psyllid Research

Last month, CRDF submitted an application to USDA, NIFA, Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), requesting \$10 million over 5 years to develop intermediate range management solutions to HLB. This cooperative multi-state effort involves over 40 scientists across citrus states and draws on expertise from other states as well. The goal of this research proposal is to develop a strategy to rear and release Asian citrus psyllids which are incapable of transmitting the HLB pathogen. Using a biological control approach, integrating these incompetent psyllids into field populations would reduce rates of spread of the disease, and could potentially act first on high risk situations such as abandoned citrus groves and dooryard citrus trees that currently harbor infected psyllids. The application is under review along with other SCRI proposals, but it will be several months before USDA announces which proposals will be approved for funding.

Texas Citrus Growers and Scientists Visit Florida to See HLB Firsthand

On February 1-2, a group of Texas citrus growers and scientists visited central Florida to get an update on research and extension activities related to HLB, and to see HLB in the field firsthand. With HLB detection in Texas this month, this visit hosted by CRDF and UF, IFAS, CREC provided an opportunity for information exchange and discussion about how HLB is being attacked by growers and by the research teams. Site visits to two commercial citrus locations allowed the group to see HLB infections in young and mature trees, and to discuss management practices being implemented in these situations. Thanks to all who participated to make this an informative exchange for both Texas and Florida participants.

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
	In vitro culture of the fastidious bacteria <i>Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus</i> associated with Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing or HLB) Disease.	Dollet	Inoculation of LAS in vitro culture in healthy citrus.
	Development of transformation techniques for <i>Murraya</i> , to engineer a deadly trap plant	Gmitter	Genetic transformation of <i>Murraya</i> : an elusive target.
	Surviving HLB and canker: genetic strategies for improved scion and rootstock varieties	Gmitter	Disease Resistance Pursued in New Citrus Varieties
	Assessment of HLB Resistance and Tolerance in Citrus and Its Relatives	Gmitter	Searching for Natural Resistance to HLB in Citrus
	Development of sensitive non-radioactive and rapid tissue blot diagnostic method for large-scale detection of citrus greening pathogen	Gowda	Tissue blot diagnostic method for detection of citrus greening
	Agrobacterium-mediated Genetic Transformation of Mature Citrus Tissue	Moore	Progress is being made on clean-up and transformation of mat
	Control of the Asian citrus psyllid, <i>Diaphorinacitri</i> Kuwayama with protease inhibitors and Rnai	Powell	RNAi effective against Asian citrus psyllid
	Genome-enabled 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> .
	Integrated approaches to discover pathogenesis-associated proteins from the causal agent of citrus greening disease and build new diagnostic tools	Triplett	Citrus Greening Disease specific proteins identified
	Does huanglongbing (HLB) or associated nutrient deficiencies change asian citrus psyllid (ACP) feeding patterns?	Dewdney	Psyllid response to HLB and nutrient deficiency continues
	An Economic Model to Evaluate Emerging Solutions to Citrus Greening	Muraro	Built, published and presented models to evaluate HLB