

# CRDF Planning Directions and Processes

By Harold Browning



**A**s we move through the current production and harvest season, the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) has been initiating plans and activities to continue delivering HLB solutions in 2017. This article summarizes some of the directions that CRDF is taking.

- CRDF is implementing results of strategic planning concluded in 2016. Initiative 1 is short-term solutions (less than 3 years to grower delivery). Initiative 2 is medium/long-term solutions requiring more than 3 years. Subcommittees of the Executive Committee are evaluating these two initiatives, and discussions will occur at 2017 committee and board meetings to make these the highest priorities for CRDF investment.
- CRDF initiated in-house review of all active and recently ending projects to determine progress and value to continue. Each year, CRDF conducts this portfolio review, beginning with project managers and the Scientific Advisory Board. Reviews and recommendations from these first steps are provided to the Research Management Committee and the Commercial Product Delivery Committee (CPDC). The board ultimately determines the final recommendations to invite new or revised proposals for CRDF review. An additional outcome of the portfolio review is to identify research results to advance to the field through the CPDC.
- At its December board meeting, CRDF approved a project for an independent, comprehensive review of HLB research conducted over the recent decade in Florida, but also to include research sponsored by other institutions and funding programs. This 1-year evaluation will provide further direction for the topics that most likely will lead to HLB solutions, and recommend specific priorities to accomplish delivery of solutions to growers. Publication of the full report of this comprehensive review is slated for early 2018.
- CRDF has intensified oversight of research and delivery topics, reducing the breadth of individual projects being funded and encouraging more team efforts toward field evaluation. A significant component of current CRDF activity is the conduct of field trials and grower evaluations to advance early results. Project managers will report regularly in 2017 on progress in these priority areas.
- Finally, CRDF continues to coordinate with the California Citrus Research Board, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative, Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service HLB Multi-Agency Coordination Group. Where different groups are working independently, teams can be encouraged to rapidly bring forth best options for management of citrus in the presence of HLB.

Please visit [citrusrdf.org](http://citrusrdf.org) to follow CRDF activities and programs.

*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.*



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