

# Keeping Current with CRDF Activities and Progress

By Harold Browning



An important element of the response to huanglongbing (HLB) that was included in the original mission of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) is keeping the industry apprised of the efforts and results. There are a number of mechanisms to accomplish this goal, yet we are often asked by growers and others, “What is CRDF doing?”

The CRDF webpage ([citrusrdf.org](http://citrusrdf.org)) was established to communicate between CRDF and audiences who are interested in what we are doing, including growers, packers, processors and other allied industry partners. Portions of the website are dedicated to researchers who are interested in submitting proposals as well as those who are already funded to seek solutions to HLB and other diseases. The website is a hub for instructions on how to apply for funds. It also lists active and proposed projects and serves as an interface for the peer review that is a component of the industry’s evaluation of potential projects.

The public face of the webpage often posts reports and other updates that help to inform interested parties of CRDF activities. Some of the current reports and information on the website are:

- The list of current funded projects. This is a simple list which can be accessed by going to the grower tab on the top of the front page. This list provides the title and investigators associated with 1- to 3-year projects funded by CRDF. We also post current projects of the California Citrus Research Board and the Texas Citrus Producers Board. For each of these current projects, there also is access to the required progress reports. These can be searched by title, topic, author or other keywords.
- USDA, NIFA nuPsyllid grant managed by CRDF. This five-year, \$9 million grant is focused on developing and delivering replacement psyllid populations that are incapable of moving the bacteria-causing HLB from infected to healthy plants. The nuPsyllid page has details of the project objectives, team members, and the annual report for the first year of the project.
- Overview of topical subjects: Periodic updates on HLB topics are posted to the website. A recent report on the research investment in citrus nutrition programs is posted at present.
- Progress in Commercial Product Delivery Committee activities: Delivering solutions to growers is important, and CRDF posts quarterly reports of the Commercial Product Delivery projects. The most recent version (October 2013) is posted on the site, and soon the January 2014 quarterly report will be posted. In addition, a brief overview of the strategy currently being followed to develop antimicrobial therapies for HLB is posted to the webpage.
- Financial information: Those interested in information on the financial aspects of CRDF may be interested in the Fiscal Year 2012–2013 External Audit report, which is posted to the webpage. Periodically, other financial information also is posted.

These reports and summaries can be found on various portions of the CRDF website front page, and the most recent links are found in the lower left panel. We invite you to browse the webpage and learn more about what CRDF is doing to support the Florida citrus industry.

*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.*

