Grower Research REPORT
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CRDF RECEIVES AND EVALUATES THE NEXT ROUND OF HLB AND CANKER PROJECT PRE-PROPOSALS

The 2011 Research Funding cycle advanced to the full proposal stage with actions by the Research Management Committee of CRDF on October 18. Now for the 3rd year since its inception, CRDF requested pre-proposals from the scientific community nationally and internationally, asking for a one-page synopsis of best ideas to address solutions to serious diseases affecting Florida citrus. The response was considerable, with 192 pre-proposals being submitted by research groups from public institutions, private research groups, and biotech companies nationally and internationally. The Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and Research Management Committee reviewed and ranked the pre-proposals, leading to approval of 115 pre-proposals invited for development of full proposals.

The large influx of new research ideas represents a number of good outcomes. Many of these pre-proposals represent follow-on objectives growing from results of research projects previously funded by CRDF and the industry. During 2011, many projects that represent the first round of research responding to HLB matured. Those earlier projects comprised the FCATP08, which was established and contracted by FDOC in late 2008 and early 2009. With the establishment of CRDF in 2009, these projects and their contracts were assumed by CRDF, and now we are seeing the completion of those projects that ranged up to 3 years in duration. As a result, many of the new pre-proposals build on the results of that early work to understand the vector psyllid and its biology, to characterize the interaction between the pathogen and how it causes disease, and developing baseline information on the genetics of citrus plants, the psyllid, and the causal bacterium. Significant progress in these areas allows for the next steps in the pathway towards short and long-term solutions to be presented. As we see implementation in the groves of new practices and tools to reduce psyllid populations and the disease that they spread, and the modification and fine-tuning of suppression methods for citrus canker, there are new questions arising among the scientists who are working in these arena. The resulting pre-proposal ideas represent next steps in this continuous evolution of information towards delivery of solutions. Florida researchers, as well as those in other citrus research areas of the U.S., are joined by USDA and University scientists from around the country outside of citrus areas. This level of response is a statement of the progress that CRDF has supported in seeking answers to these problems from a broad cross-section of scientists and technologies.

Over the next month, those who submitted successful pre-proposals will be advancing their plans by way of submitting full proposals. These more defined project plans and budgets will be reviewed in detail by peer scientists, the Scientific Advisory Board and by the Research Management Committee, composed of Florida citrus growers. The criteria for evaluation, established through extensive discussion and communication, remains focused on attracting the best science to the challenges, and ensuring that if accomplished, the project results will lead to practical solutions for implementation in Florida citrus groves.

Final review and approval of the best from the new round of proposals will occur in early 2012, and contracting of successful projects will take place in spring, 2012. The resulting new projects will complement current ongoing work, whose progress also is being evaluated in conjunction with review of the new project proposals.

The continued search for and implementation of solutions to HLB and canker, as well as other diseases of importance to Florida citrus, will be advanced significantly by this next round of project proposals, determined through a process that rivals some of the best research funding programs in existence.

UPCOMING MEETINGS		
November, 2011		
1	Industry Research Coordinating Comm.	CREC
4	Commercial Product Development Comm.	CREC
December, 2011		
6	Board of Directors	CREC
January, 2012		
23	Board of Directors Annual Meeting	CREC

VISIT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE www.citusrdf.org

We invite you to visit our updated webpage at www.citrusrdf.org. During 2011, we have been evaluating our effectiveness in communicating activities and progress in responding to HLB and canker to the industry and the broader audience. We also have reviewed and revised information on the website related to our research programs and how to apply for funding. Thus, it seemed logical to give the webpage a face-lift and enhance

(Please see Website continued on page 2.)

(Website continued from page 1.)

its role in keeping everyone updated on CRDF activities. With the launch of the revised webpage on October 24, we invite you to visit the site, navigate to areas of interest, and give us feedback on what you would like to know more about. We want this to be a place for you to access current research project lists, news related to CRDF programs, and CRDF event schedules. We offer our thanks to Steve Rogers and his team for their continuing efforts to facilitate our webpage and other communication.

The new www.citrusrdf.org

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
	MANAGEMENT OF PSYLA IN TREE FRUIT CROPS, USING RNA INTERFERENCE	Cox	RNAi ready citrus with citrus phloem promoters developed
	Evaluation and development of effective ultra low volume spray technologies for management of the Asian citrus psyllid	Salyani	LV sprays affected primarily by wind speed during application
	Development of a central genome resources website for Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus	Lindeberg	Genome viewer consolidates access to diverse data
	Evaluation of Methyl Salicylate as a simultaneious repellent of Asian citrus psyllid and attractant for psyllid natural enemies	Stelinski	MeSA did not increase biocontrol when psyllid populations low
	How does Liberibacter infection of psyllids affect the behavioral response of this vector to healthy versus HLB-infected citrus trees?	Stelinski	Infection of citrus with HLB pathogen affects psyllid behavior
	Is Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus, the pathogen responsible for Huanglongbing in Florida, sexually transmitted between adult psyllids?	Stelinski	HLB-bacteria are spread by sexual transmission
	Application of Asian Citrus psyllid, Diaphorina citri, tissue culture cell lines	Keyhani	Diaphorina citri cell lines
	Prevalence in ACP and citrus is positively correlated	Dewdney	Prevalence in ACP and citrus is positively correlated for a year
	Development and optimization of biorational tactics for Asian citrus psyllid control and decreasing huanglongbing incidence	Stelinski	Potential new SAR tool for Asian citrus psyllid management
	Quantitative measurement of the movement patterns and dispersal behavior of Asian citrus psyllid in Florida for improved management	Stelinski	Within and between grove movement of ACP important in HLB
	Insight into the causative agent of citrus greening disease (HLB) using computational structure/function analysis of genome encoded proteins	Grishin	Proteome analysis finished, curated results presented
	In vitro culture of the fastidious bacteria Candidatus Liberiabacter asiasticus associated with Citrus Greening (Huanglongbing or HLB) Disease.	Dollet	Axenisation of the in vitro culture of LAS