



2020 Request for Proposals to Conduct Large-scale Scientific Research Field Trials And Demonstration Projects

I. RFP Timeline

- September 23, 2020: Call for proposals announced
October 23, 2020: Deadline to submit Proposal; must be received by 5:00 pm Eastern Time. The proposal shall be no more than five pages plus CVs in length.
December 8, 2020: Board approval of proposals
December, 2020: After the December Board of Directors' meeting approved proposals will be posted to website

- A. Contractual Services Sought: Design and administer large-scale field trial and/or demonstration programs for the purpose of evaluating the efficacy of various HLB (citrus greening) management practices (further described below), and to collect and manage data in connection to such field trials.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is open to a credentialed researcher or not-for-profit organization qualified to conduct field trials of HLB management practices in any citrus producing region of Florida. Recipient of grants through this RFP may partner with for-profit businesses and vendors to implement the plan of work. Cost share elements are encouraged.

The Florida Legislative proviso language provides \$3,000,000 to the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) in FY 2020-2021 for funding the administration and execution of large-scale research field trials to demonstrate the impact of utilizing a combination of management and therapeutic tools for new plantings, including, but not limited to, grove design, planting preparation, pest management and post planting production practices to promote increased production of citrus.

The goal is to develop best management practices for growing citrus in the HLB era.

- B. Examples of field trial components and/or areas of inquiry to evaluate, and services requested:
1. Grove design, planting preparation, new tolerant/resistant varieties or rootstocks and/or scions.
 2. Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) or other pest management tools and strategies.

3. Horticultural practices (irrigation, nutrition, etc.) for best HLB disease management, including those affecting standard industry varieties and rootstocks.
 4. Management of interactions between HLB and other citrus diseases (e.g. Canker, Black Spot, Blight) and other pests.
 5. Other management practices chosen by the grower.
- C. Compensation of Participants and Partners: Program may include disbursement of funds payable to citrus grower participants on a cost-share basis for field testing, planting of citrus trees, identified production costs and data collection. Proposal may include compensation schedules, but amounts paid may vary depending on available funds, numbers of applicants and government production cost guidelines. Proposal may include anticipated use of third-party vendors to perform program deliverables and costs associated.
- D. Data collection and data management: To the extent appropriate, data collected will be reported on standardized forms, including annual production costs, so that assessment of costs vs. benefits may be drawn from one field trial to the next.
- E. Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposal:
1. Utilization of stakeholder review committee to evaluate projects and work plans.
 2. Project cost may be considered during evaluation but will be secondary to overall potential project benefit to the Florida Citrus Industry.
 3. Although funding is for a single fiscal year, the proposal should indicate multi-year options, the funding of which is dependent on appropriation by the Florida Legislature. Renewal of contract and costs should be addressed in the proposal.
 4. A demonstrated plan and the ability to attract additional funding for field trial program.
 5. Communication plan to educate growers and share field trial results.
 6. Plan for data collection and data management. Describe what data will be collected, and how and when it will be collected.
 7. Prior relevant experience of principal investigators and third-party partners in administering similar or related programs.
- F. Deliverables:
1. Process and procedure to identify participants and partners to execute field trials;
 2. Process and procedure to enter into “intent to contract” arrangements or agreements with grower participants and partners to execute field trials;
 3. Establish data collection program and collect data as proposed;
 4. Submit quarterly reports to inform CRDF of status of program, including results;
 5. Agree that collected data is subject to public records laws and may be analyzed and used to help educate and inform the Florida citrus industry at large; and

6. Agree to share annual costs of production data to allow economic analysis of sustainable yield.

II. PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Response to RFP is limited to five pages, exclusive of attachments, and may be for a period of one to three years. However, applicants should realize that it is difficult to glean reliable data from field trials of only one or two years, so proposals for less than three years should contain specific explanation of how the research goal(s) will be achieved.

- A. All proposals shall include:
 1. Brief title, principal operators, investigators and addresses with contact e-mails.
 2. Abstract, which shall not exceed 500 words.
- B. Summarize the following information relative to this project:
 1. Describe the management practices and experimental designs being addressed.
 2. Summarize the purpose of this proposed project and the approach used to meet the objectives.
 3. What is the practical application of this project and how will the expected results impact the citrus industry? (Note: It is not necessary to describe the importance of the citrus industry or how much HLB has affected it.)
- C. **Budget:** Submit proposed budget covering overall budget, as well as proposed compensation schedules and plans to be used for specific field trials.
- D. **Timeline and Milestones:** Provide a timeline for objectives and deliverables.
- E. **Resources:** List how the available resources/facilities are suited to accomplish the project objectives.

Save the .pdf file, naming it with your *LastName.Initial_Proposal.pdf*, i.e. *Jones.J_Proposal.pdf*

Email completed proposals to catp@citrusrdf.org on or before October 23, 2020, 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

All questions should be emailed to catp@citrusrdf.org.

Proposals are reviewed by the CRDF Staff and Committees and may be reviewed by external ad hoc expert reviewers, with recommendations to be considered and approved by the CRDF Board of Directors. The list of Proposal(s) selected will be posted to citrusrdf.org web page upon approval after the December 2020 CRDF Board meeting.

III. Full Proposal Layout Details:

Full Proposals should be written in English and submitted as email attachments in Adobe PDF format. Page margins should be one inch on all sides. Use Times New Roman or a similar typeface set to 12-point and single-line spacing. Proposal narrative must be limited to 5 pages plus 2-page (maximum) CVs for principal investigators describing their expertise. Documents exceeding page limits will not be considered. Letters of support from cooperators and nursery tree suppliers should be appended.

Page numbers should be placed on the lower right-hand corner with the Principal Contact name and the page number (e.g., Jones-2).

Each file submitted as a component of your full proposal should be named with the Principal Investigator name and form identifier (e.g., *Jones proposal*).

When naming files to be included in your Full Proposal submission, avoid using special characters (! @ # \$ % &) in the filename.

Full Proposal packages should be emailed to catp@citrusrdf.org.

Questions may be emailed to catp@citrusrdf.org.