

2021 Request for Proposals to Conduct Large-scale Scientific Research Field Trials And Demonstration Projects

I. RFP Timeline

- June 23, 2021: Call for proposals announced.
- August 1, 2021: 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.
- August 18, 2021: Board approval of proposals
- August 18, 2021: After the August Board of Directors' meeting, approved proposals will be posted to the CRDF website.

- A. Contractual Services Sought: Designing and administering 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 rootstock and scion selections, and to collect and manage data in connection to such field trials and/or demonstration projects.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is open to credentialed researchers or not-for-profit organizations qualified to conduct large-scale scientific research field trials and demonstration projects 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, post planting production practices and various rootstock and scion selections to promote increased production of citrus. 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 but not required.

Florida legislative proviso language provides \$5,000,000 to the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) in FY 2021-2022 for funding the administration and execution of such large-scale research field trials and demonstration projects to promote increased production of citrus.

- B. Compensation of Awardee, Participants and Partners: Program may include payment for the administration and execution of large-scale field trials and demonstration projects which include, but shall not be limited to, disbursement by the Awardee of funds payable

to citrus grower participants on a cost-share basis for field testing management, therapeutic tools, and rootstock and scion selections described in A on new plantings. Proposal may include anticipated use of third-party vendors to perform program deliverables and costs associated therewith.

C. 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 or demonstration project to the next.

D. 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 the overall potential project benefit to the Florida Citrus Industry.
3. Although Award deliverables must be fully accomplished within the 2021-2022 fiscal year, underlying projects administered under the award may themselves include multi-year options. Renewal of contract and costs should be addressed in the proposal.
4. A demonstrated plan and the ability to attract additional funding or synergistic resources for use by the field trial or demonstration project 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.
8. Plan for allocating funding to participant contracts equally between classes of growers (1) with greater than or equal to 2,500 acres and (2) growers with more than five acres but less than 2,500 acres in commercial production.
9. Representation that Awardee or external entities with whom Awardee contracts will not charge CRDF administrative assessments beyond the direct costs of goods and services furnished.

F. Deliverables:

1. Satisfy that Awardee's administrative controls and governance are in place to be fiscally accountable and to execute program in compliance with State law.
2. Process and procedure to identify participants and partners to execute field trials or demonstration projects;
3. Process and procedure to enter into "intent to contract" arrangements or agreements with grower participants and partners to execute field trials or demonstration projects;
4. Establish data collection program and collect data as proposed;
5. Submit quarterly reports to inform CRDF of status of program, including results;

6. 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
7. 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 low production or pest and disease have 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 and demonstration projects.
- 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 August 1, 2021, 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 August 2021 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 font 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.