



# REPORT

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## Update on CATP12 – Renewing the Effort, Building on Progress

CRDF is currently evaluating the 5th round of annual project proposals (CATP12) to define needs for additional research and will ultimately approve funding for those projects deemed most vital toward delivering solutions to HLB and other citrus diseases. Since the intensive research response to HLB was initiated in 2008, the industry program for funding and directing research has maintained a portfolio of over 100 projects across a broad list of priorities. Projects are approved for one to three years, and those submitting new proposals must provide a context of how their proposed work fits with ongoing research. Project plans are reviewed for the strength of their scientific design and the appropriateness of the approach to meeting the objectives. In addition, projects are scored for the likelihood that they will lead, in the near or longer term, to practical solutions that can be delivered to citrus growers. The evaluation process incorporates input from national experts in relevant fields, who review and provide specific comments on the rigor of the proposed work, its unique characteristics, and the strengths (and weaknesses) of the investigators. Each proposal is independently reviewed by several of these experts, and their input is passed along to the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for incorporation into the next step in the process. It is at this point that the integration of proposed projects with the ongoing portfolio is considered. SAB members are chosen who represent expertise in the range of areas covered by CRDF projects, and individuals are assigned proposals in their areas of expertise for in-depth review. The formal deliberation of new project proposals actually begins with a review of progress of projects that are already underway. This is accomplished through review of the required progress reports and discussion of how each project is progressing towards meeting its objectives and timeline. In this way, existing and proposed projects are considered together. Recommendations are made for continuation of existing projects, and new proposals are ranked as to the value that they will add to the ongoing efforts. This step also allows the scientific review phase to balance the effort and to determine where projects are reaching maturity that will lead to delivering solutions, and perhaps advance these projects for consideration and acceleration by the Commercial Product Development Committee. Areas for additional effort are likewise identified during this phase, and this information is used by the Research Program Manager to encourage proposals in subsequent rounds.

The grower-based Research Management Committee (RMC) provides the next vital step in this process, bringing the scien-

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### JANUARY, 2013

22	Commercial Product Development Committee	CREC, Lake Alfred	9:30 a.m.
22	Board of Directors Annual Meeting	CREC, Lake Alfred	1:00 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY, 2013

21	Research Management Committee	CREC, Lake Alfred	9:00 a.m.
26	Board of Directors Meeting	CREC, Lake Alfred	TBD

tific review and consideration of practical application into focus. After studying assigned proposals in advance, the RMC meets to discuss the evidence provided by the previous tiers of review, as well as their own assessments. Ongoing project progress is discussed, and new proposals are ranked for the value that they would add to reaching solutions. The RMC completes its work by formally recommending a set of projects for funding approval by the Board, and may incorporate conditions on the approved projects, such as reduced scope or modified budget.

This process has provided a balance between selecting the best science with the need for the projects to have a practical value to the industry. Combined with ongoing research within the state by the University of Florida, IFAS, the USDA, ARS and others, as well as national and international research funded from other sources, the portfolio of projects supported by CRDF represents highly focused projects that will most benefit the Florida citrus industry.

The goal of solving HLB poses a significant challenge. While maintaining a large program with so many projects focused on a common goal, it is important to assure that there is adequate coverage of the areas that might lead to solutions, while not unnecessarily duplicating efforts and wasting resources. While we would hope that the pathway to durable solutions to ACP and HLB would be clear and unambiguous, this has proven not to be the case. Having specific directions toward solutions focuses the effort, but doesn't necessarily identify which pathway will get you there. Among the specific directions that have been at the core of the response to HLB:

- Stop spread of HLB by reducing Asian citrus psyllid populations year-around
- Develop therapies that can reduce the injury and/or rejuvenate infected trees
- Define protection from HLB to allow for replanting of citrus groves
- Deliver citrus rootstocks/scions that are resistant to HLB

The above goals represent the thrust of the current investment

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in HLB research. Simply stated, these four directions have been the focus from the start. Progress has been made on all fronts, yet we cannot say that any of the above goals have been reached, and thus the effort must continue.

## Growers Talk ..... Researchers Talk

Talking to one another about HLB is a strength of Florida citrus growers that has allowed you to come together in this monumental effort to find solutions to the disease. This may seem an oversimplification, but communication about HLB and how it can be managed has led to the grower-driven response that is in place, including the intensive research process described above. Equally important, you communicate regularly about your observations in the grove, the status of the disease, tree status, and the various strategies and tactics that you are trying in an effort to remain productive. This information exchange stimulates further ideas, and many of the current practices that are being evaluated in response to HLB have emerged through routine communication. The acceptance and growth of CHMAs is yet another example of how growers working together identified

an opportunity to improve on psyllid control, and now have a mechanism in place that can be used to deliver additional solutions. Your communication also aids the research teams to understand how their efforts will meet your needs.

Researchers likewise talk, and in a similar manner, exchange details of their individual efforts. They do so informally, one-on-one, and it is this communication that ties together their research efforts. More importantly, they are provided numerous venues to publically report on their work, even before the research data are finalized and ready for publication. The recent International Citrus Congress in Spain offered such an opportunity for citrus scientists from around the world to exchange information on topics of common interest. The upcoming International Research Conference on HLB (IRCHLB) scheduled for February in Orlando, Florida will be the next opportunity for exchange of information and ideas, with the focus being HLB. A follow-up of this meeting will be a grower event on March 6 at the UF, IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. Summaries of the scientific exchange will be provided at this meeting.

## 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 [citrusrdf.org](http://citrusrdf.org)>GROWERS>RESEARCH>SEARCH PROGRESS REPORTS.

LINK	TITLE	RESEARCHER
	Intensively managed citrus production systems for early high yields and vegetative flush control in the presence of greening and canker diseases	Schumann
	Recovery on Citrus germplasm in Florida	Lee
	Efficacy of interplanting citrus with guava as a control strategy for huanglongbing.	Gottwald
	Bioinformatic characterization and development of a central genome resources website for <i>Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus</i>	Lindeberg
	Development of SSR markers for detection, genotyping, phenotyping and genetic diversity assessment of <i>Candidatus Liberibacter</i> strains in Florida	Lin
	Diagnostic service for growers for detection of Huanglongbing to aid in management decisions	Roberts
	Manipulating SA-mediated defense signaling to stimulate broad-spectrum resistance to HLB and other diseases in citrus	Lu
	PREPARATION OF ANTIBODIES AGAINST CANDIDATUS LIBERIBACTER ASIATICUS	Hartung