



**Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension
Project Directors Meeting**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

The Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) was established in the 2014 Farm Bill to advance the research and extension capabilities related to citrus diseases. HLB (short for Huanglongbing) is one type of citrus disease. The 2014 Farm Bill charged CDS with providing an annual consultation with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to provide recommendations on the agenda, budget and priorities of NIFA's Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program (ECDRE). ECDRE is a competitive grant program that integrates research and extension activities to combat and prevent HLB at the farm-level for U.S. citrus growers. NIFA supports projects for the ECDRE program to address priorities identified by the Citrus Disease Sub-committee (CDS) of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board through projects that integrate research and extension activities and use systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches to provide solutions to U.S. citrus growers.

The ECDRE met in a virtual public session on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, via a virtual zoom meeting. The meeting's main goal was to hear from the Fiscal Year (FY) 21 Project Director's research projects.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

The meeting consisted of 17 presentations from various professionals in the citrus industry. The presenters were as follows: Dr. Bryony Bonning, Dr. Goutam Gupta, Dr. Denise Manker, Dr. Chandrika Ramadugu, Dr. Robert Shatters, Dr. Anne Simon, Dr. James Culver, Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock, Dr. Manjul Dutt, Dr. Vivian Irish, Dr. Yen-Wen Kuo, Dr. Amit Levy, Dr. Kranthi Mandadi, Dr. Zhonglin Mou, Dr. Caroline Roper, Dr. Danelle Seymore, and lastly Dr. Kirsten Stelinski. The first six presentations were each 15 minutes in length followed by a five-minute question and answer period and the last 11 presentations were five minutes in length followed by a two-minute question and answer period. The presentation topics ranged from huanglongbing prevention in commercial groves to multiplexed CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing.

ACTION ITEMS and BUSINESS

Ms. Kate Lewis, Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer asked that when the project presentations are placed on the ECDRE website please let her know so she can share the link on the CDS site.

After receiving permission from the Project Directors, Dr. Erica Kistner-Thomas –National Program Leader, USDA-NIFA said the presentations will be shared on the website after the documents have been made 508 compliant.

Currently the USDA-NIFA is in the Panel Review Process for the FY 22 awards. This meeting today was a program recommendation by CDS, and another recommendation is to have the ECDRE and the CDS meet potentially later this year to discuss FY 22 awards.