

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)
Science and Technology Subcommittee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2022**

There was a quorum of the Science Subcommittee and the following were in attendance:

Science Subcommittee Members Present:

Franco Bernardi	Jim Gorden	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Brad Carmen	Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Ram Uckoo
Aaron Dillon	Dr. Melinda Klein	

CDFA Staff:

Karina Chu*	Anmol Joshi*	Briana Russell*
Kiana Dao*	Betty Lee*	Dr. Heather Scheck*
Paul Figueroa*	Alex Muniz*	Michael Soltero*
Jorge Garcia*	Keith Okasaki	Claudia Vazquez*
David Gutierrez*	Lea Pereira*	Jennifer Willems*
Victoria Hornbaker*	David Phong*	Amelia Wright*
Laura Irons*	Lydia Rodriguez*	

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Dr. Sandra Olkowski*
Teri Blaser*	Joey Mayorquin*	Margaret O'Neill*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Mark McBroom*	Cressida Silvers*
John C. Gless*	Dr. Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich*
Dr. Jonathan Kaplan*	Mia Neunzig*	Sandra Zwaal*
Jessica Leslie*		

*Attendees participated via webinar

Opening Comments

Dr. Etienne Rabe called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Keith Okasaki reported that the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) report is not finalized and would not be displayed at this meeting. Upon Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) and Secretary of Agriculture approval, the report will be made publicly available.

SAP Report Review

Subcommittee members provided their initial impressions and responses to the SAP report.

Dr. Melinda Klein stated the SAP report does not provide evidential justification for the SAP's recommendations. Dr. Klein asserted that the recommendation for non-regulatory mass sampling seemed problematic as it would not be part of the state program. Dr. Klein continued that there are issues with data harmonization and sharing between labs.

Dr. Ram Uckoo disagreed with the SAP's recommendation of full huanglongbing (HLB) genotyping.

Brad Carmen asked how recommendations would be implemented and added that the Operations Subcommittee should review the report and propose an implementation plan. The Finance Subcommittee should then review the implementation plan to determine resource impacts.

Dr. Subhas Hajeri stated the recommendations are good but wanted to highlight easily actionable items with support from the other subcommittees.

Jim Gorden stated that some recommendations could be quickly implemented and the CPDPC should focus future discussions on the more difficult recommendations.

Aaron Dillon agreed with Dr. Klein's thoughts and stated more discussion is needed.

Victoria Hornbaker stated that the SAP report was reviewed by an ad hoc grower group. The report will be provided the CPDPC for review and approval, and then sent to the Secretary. Easily implemented items should be executed first, pending review and approval from the Finance Subcommittee. Once the report has the necessary approvals, the CPDPC will meet for a full day workshop to discuss implementing recommendation.

Price Adams noted the topics of concern included the budget and regulatory impacts associated with implementing recommendations.

Dr. Rabe stated the sections of the SAP report were authored by individual members best positioned to make recommendations. As such, each recommendation should be allocated to the appropriate CPDPC subcommittee for review. The SAP did not utilize an economist to analyze resource allocation. Certain recommendations may be emphasized or deemphasized after considering resources. Dr. Rabe stated there is a lack of coordination between different entities and the SAP is unclear for what each program (California Department of Food and Agriculture, Citrus Research Board, Counties, Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency, pest control district, etc.) is responsible. There is a need to revisit the HLB response and get growers involved to try and save money by submitting samples. Coordination is needed and grower participation is important.

Ms. Adams provided an overview of the SAP-related events to date in 2022, as well as the next steps:

- SAP Meeting in Sacramento – April

- Development of SAP Report and Recommendations – April through June
- SAP Discussion Meeting – August 15
- Feedback Reviewed by SAP Co-Chairs – August
- Recommendations Presented to Operations and Science Subcommittee – September
- Present Final Draft of Recommendations to Full Committee – September
- Strategy and Prioritization Session with Full Committee – October/November
- Technical Advisory Committee to Drive Implementation – October/November

The SAP's recommended goal for the program is to keep HLB out of California's commercial citrus groves with a list of objectives. Key topics of this presentation were:

- Greatly increase commercial citrus testing and response to *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*.
- Change the strategy for residential risk-based survey.
- Harmonize data collection and management between agencies and individuals.
- Maximize psyllid surveying and suppression.
- Address nursery issues to ensure clean plant material is available to growers.
- Conduct a deeper quantitative and qualitative analysis of outreach milestones and successes to shift the program towards predictive rather than reactive messaging.

The outlines of each SAP recommendation were reviewed by committee members. Mr. Gorden recommended subcommittee acknowledge and accept receipt of the report and was seconded by Dr. Uckoo. All subcommittee members were in favor.

Other Items and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.