

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

**Meeting Minutes  
July 29, 2024**

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

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

Brad Carmen	Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Aaron Dillon	*Mark McBroom	*Dr. Ram Uckoo
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic	

**CDFA Staff:**

Dr. Ravneet Behla	Dr. Cheol Min Lee	David Phong
Kiana Dao	Alex Muniz	Michael Soltero
Paul Figueroa	Raymond Niem	Nilan Watmore
David Gutierrez	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi		

**Other Attendees:**

Price Adams	Dr. Dhiraj Gautam	Margaret O'Neill
Dr. James Adaskaveg	Jim Gorden	Dr. Sandra Olkowski
Alejandro Alaniz	Jessica Leslie	Cressida Silvers
Dr. Rob Clark	Marcy Martin	Keith Watkins
James Cranney	Dr. Joey Mayorquin	Judy Zaninovich
Natalie DeAngelo	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Sandra Zwaal

All attendees participated via webinar

\*Committee members unable to have their cameras on due to connectivity issues

**Opening Comments**

Chair, Dr. Etienne Rabe called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Update**

Dr. Jim Adaskaveg provided an update on SOS detection results from his lab, highlighting the need for secondary confirmation methods for detecting SOS. Current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and CDFA protocols only use one process of verification, relying on a single primer, which may not be sufficient given new scientific standards requiring multiple mechanisms of confirmation. Dr. Adaskaveg emphasized that APHIS/CDFA protocols can result in false positives and suggested that a secondary verification with additional primers are necessary to confirm SOS detections.

Action Item(s):

1. Reconvene the SOS working group to discuss the findings from Dr. Adaskaveg's lab and provide an update the following Science Subcommittee meeting.

**Southern California HLB/ACP Update**

Anmol Joshi presented an update on the status of Huanglongbing (HLB) and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in Southern California. The presentation included data on HLB detections from 2012 to July 2024, noting a significant increase in detections in 2023. New strategies implemented in Los Angeles and Orange Counties are projected to show a reduction in the number of positive detections in 2024. In new strategy, LA and Orange County area is separated into Core and Leading -edge areas. In core areas, the program conducts survey and treatments of the find site and adjacent properties only that comprises 50m area whereas in the leading edges, program conduct survey and treatments in the 250m from the find site.

Action Item(s):

1. CDFA will provide data on the total number of trees sampled, the positivity rate of trees sampled and ACP samples, and total number of trees surveyed to the Technical Review Team (TRT) for the years data is available.

**Ethyl Formate Update**

Jim Cranney provided an update on behalf of Dr. Rabe on the registration process for ethyl formate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). He noted conflicting information from the EPA and ongoing data reviews by DPR, with a target to complete the registration by the end of the year.

**Citrus Research and Development Update**

David Phong provided a written document summarizing key points from the recent HLB conference, including research on disease-resistant rootstock and lures for ACP (See Supporting Materials).

**Implications of 1500-meter vs. 500-meter Multi-Pest Survey (MPS) around 5-acre Groves**

Keith Okasaki presented the implications of adjusting the MPS radius from 1500 meters to 500 meters around commercial citrus groves. Keith began by providing a breakdown of where current MPS activities are distributed and number of STRs near groves in Southern California. Discussions included the implication of altering MPS parameters on federal funding and the effectiveness of survey efforts.

Action Item(s):

1. The Science Subcommittee will review and provide information for the TRT to examine impacts of survey radius adjustments.
2. CDFA will provide a full list of pests that are being surveyed under MPS.

**Review of the Regulatory HLB Response Plan**

Keith Okasaki discussed the current HLB response plan and the need to make it less punitive for growers to promote grower participation. He noted that the subcommittee should make suggestions about what specific changes they want to see, and the program can investigate and provide analysis results.

Action Item(s):

1. The Science Subcommittee will make suggestions to investigate.

**Program Strategic Topics**

Dr. Etienne Rabe introduced strategic topics for discussion to help formulate questions for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The discussion points included (A) adapting the residential HLB fight in Southern California, (B) shifting focus toward commercial citrus, (C) delegating actions to the local level, (D) utilizing climate data to inform pest and disease prevention strategies, and (E) others.

Action Item(s):

1. The Science Subcommittee will formulate specific questions for the TAC to explore and develop a comprehensive strategy based on recommendations.

**Budget Discussion Update**

David Gutierrez provided an update on the state budget and its implications for the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD). The new state budget will reduce the funding for CPDPD as well as cause position sweeps. CPDPD has taken actions to save these positions and will have realignment discussions to minimize the impact of reduced funding.

**Other Items and Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.