

## ***Huanglongbing* Multi-Agency Coordination Project Suggestion Guidelines**

**Background:** The *Huanglongbing* (HLB) Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) framework was established by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to coordinate the federal, state, and industry response to the emergency situation arising from the effects of HLB on the citrus industry in the United States. The HLB MAC Group is charged with quickly putting practical tools and solutions in the hands of producers that will allow them to remain economically productive until more permanent, long-term solutions can be employed. Part of the HLB MAC Group strategy for meeting this charge is to solicit suggestions from interested parties for projects that can have immediate impact on the sustainability of citrus production in the U.S.

**Goal Areas:** Suggestions must address one of the following goal areas:

1. Vector Management (e.g. chemical or semiochemical ready for field level testing, tools for trapping in the field, or substances that repel the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP))
2. Pre-symptomatic detection of HLB (e.g. scale up of early detection methods into tools that can be used in the field for management or in the lab for high throughput diagnostics)
3. Therapies to sustain diseased plant and insect hosts (e.g. a therapy that can help diseased trees maintain productivity, reduce *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* in trees or ACP, or prevent feeding by ACP)
4. Sustainability of new plantings (e.g. a method, technology, or tool that will protect new trees from infection or impact of HLB; a system of best horticultural practices to allow production in presence of disease)
5. Inoculum management (e.g. strategies for removing/treating infected trees, especially those that are in the urban landscape or in abandoned or largely unmanaged groves)

**Suggestion should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the project addresses some or all of the rating criteria. The primary criterion is that suggestions be for tools and strategies that can provide practical solutions to the citrus industry within 1-2 years. Suggestions should be for the scaling up or testing of methods that have been proven by previous research to be of near-term utility to the citrus industry for combatting HLB and its vector. Basic discovery and initial experimentation to develop methods or tools are not appropriate for funding through the HLB MAC Project Suggestion process.**

**Rating Criteria:** Provide sufficient detail demonstrating how the project addresses some or all of the rating criteria:

1. Timeliness of impact – Has the technology, method or product been proven effective and shown to be field ready? Will this provide a positive benefit to the industry within 1-2 years?
2. Scalability – Is this technology ready to be scaled up or commercialized?
3. Economic impact – Cost/benefit of this solution or tool for growers and industry.
4. End user involvement – Will this work be carried out on commercially managed or grower land? How will growers be involved in evaluating the results?
5. Adaptability across states and to residential/non-commercial citrus – Is this broadly applicable? Will it be useful for organic or residential use? How might it need to be modified or tested for adaptation across soils, climate, etc., in other states? Is this compatible with overall citrus management programs?

## **Suggestion Process:**

### General

Open period: June 30, 2014 – August 22, 2014

Amount of funding available: Up to \$8 million is available to fund suggestions that best meet the criteria outlined above. Suggestions can be for a one or two year period with second year funding dependent on demonstrated progress in the project.

### Suggestion submission process

APHIS is utilizing a Suggestion/Project Management System for submission of project suggestions for consideration for HLB MAC funding. The software we are using to collect suggestions was previously developed for requests for proposals (RFPs) or requests for applications (RFAs). Please note that this is a call for HLB MAC Project **Suggestions** and not a call for grant proposals or applications. This language will be updated in future versions.

To submit a suggestion:

1. Register as a Project Director/Principle Investigator at:  
<http://www.cipm.info/hlbmac/spms/>
2. Once you have logged into the site, click “RFAs/Suggestions”.
3. On the Suggestions page, click “List of Current RFAs”.
4. In the table, click “View RFA Details.”
5. Download the HLB MAC Suggestion Template and complete the template. Save your completed suggestion in .pdf format.
6. When you are ready to submit your suggestion, return to the RFA Details page and click “Enter New Proposal.”
7. Fill in the required items on the form and click “Submit Information.”
8. Add additional project directors if applicable and continue.
9. Upload your completed suggestion in .pdf format. When you are finished, click “Submit Final Proposal.” You will not be able to edit your proposal after submitting.
10. You will be able to view submitted proposals on the RFAs/Suggestions page.

Suggestion length should be no more than 10 pages, single spaced.

### Budget Guidelines

HLB MAC funds are congressionally appropriated funds and therefore institutions of higher learning and nonprofits will be limited to 10% indirect costs. All other entities will be subject to their Negotiated Indirect Cost Recovery Agreement (NICRA). If an institution does not have a NICRA then it must itemize within the budget object codes any overhead cost.

### Review process

All suggestions will be evaluated as they are received in the Suggestion/Project Management System. Evaluations will be based on the rating criteria above, most importantly whether the promising tool or solution is ready for field level testing, scaling up, or commercialization. Suggestions meeting the rating criteria will be reviewed by a set of stakeholders (federal, state, industry, and academia) for feasibility, scientific validity, and utility to the citrus industry in combatting HLB or its ACP vector. Final funding decisions will be made after August 22 when the submission period ends.

### Agreement process

All cooperative agreements will be administered through APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine and are the means by which funds are provided to each cooperator. Cooperators will be contacted by APHIS personnel who will provide additional guidance and coordination on submitting detailed work and financial plans. Cooperators may submit suggestions with a maximum project period of two years. Initial funds will be provided through a one year cooperative agreement; agreement renewal for second year funding (if applicable) is dependent on demonstrated progress in the project.