

HLB MAC Projects Funded During FY 2026

Project Title	Principal Investigator	State(s)	Affiliation	Total Amount	Producer Benefits
Commercial deployment of the drug-discovery pipeline “Grove-First” to provide growers with alternative treatments for citrus greening disease	Estes Citrus, Inc.	FL	Grove-First Research Consortium	\$1,903,000	Evaluate therapeutic antibiotic residues detected in citrus fruit following trunk injection and collect worker safety data.
Protecting Bearing Trees Against HLB by Field Grafting	Rafael Simon	FL	Silvec Biologics	\$377,420	Develop and validate field grafting strategy to deliver CTV vectors expressing defensins for management of HLB
Interim Support for California Citrus Research and Field Trial (CRaFT) Continuation	Ivan Milosavljević	CA	Citrus Research Board	\$485,408	Maintain ACP monitoring and coordinated suppression
Enhancing the sustainability of citrus production via multi-pronged grove management strategies in grower participatory trials in Texas	Mamoudou Sétamou	TX	Texas Citrus Pest & Disease Management and Texas A&M University-Kingsville	\$416,889	Implement and evaluate management practices to mitigate HLB
Advancing and Scaling the CA-CRaFT Program for ACP Suppression	Ivan Milosavljević	CA	Citrus Research Board	\$1,801,756*	Maintain ACP monitoring and coordinated suppression
Generation of disease resistant citrus varieties against both HLB and canker via CRISPR genome editing	Nian Wang	FL	University of Florida	\$530,017	Develop citrus varieties resistant to both HLB and citrus canker
Combining emerging HLB-tolerant sweet oranges and rootstocks into a Stage 2 Trial for Robust Field Evaluation	Manjul Dutt	FL	University of Florida	\$383,790	Identify rootstock-scion combinations to mitigate production losses from HLB

Citrus Research and Field Trials (CRaFT)	Tamara Wood	FL	Citrus Research & Field Trial Foundation Inc.	\$2,283,478	Implement and evaluate management practices to mitigate HLB in Florida
In-grove screening for HLB solutions using symbiont and injection technologies	Estes Citrus, Inc.	FL	Grove-First Research Consortium	\$ 1,745,626**	Grove evaluation of therapies to combat HLB
Expanding Field Evaluations of CRISPR-Edited Citrus Varieties to Combat HLB	Yianni Lagos	FL	Soilcea LLC.	\$1,448,913	Evaluate citrus varieties edited using CRISPR to create resistance to HLB
Maintenance of CRaFT data Management Tools to Directly Support HLB MAC CRAFT	Susan Wassmer	CA, FL, TX	North Carolina State University	\$800,025	Maintenance of CRaFT database to support CRaFT projects across citrus growing areas
Identification and validation of HLB susceptibility genes through field trials in Florida	Vivian Irish	FL	Yale University	\$1,397,680	Field trials to identify candidate genes that provide susceptibility to HLB
Balancing Growth and Defense Phytohormones for Optimal Yield and Productivity of Citrus	Tripti Vashisth	FL	University of Florida	\$160,879**	Develop economically sustainable strategies to mitigate HLB using plant growth regulators
Enhancing the sustainability of citrus production via multi-pronged grove management strategies in grower participatory trials in Texas	Mamoudou Sétamou	TX	Texas Citrus Pest & Disease Management and Texas A&M University-Kingsville	\$451,312	Implement and evaluate management practices to mitigate HLB

*Year 1 of a 3-year project

**Years 2 and 3 of a 3-year project