

**INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES TO CONTROL HUANGLONGBING BACTERIUM**

Communication from Jamaica

The following communication, received on 12 October 2011, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Jamaica.

1. In September 2009 the Plant Health Committee of Jamaica got confirmation of the presence of *Liberibacter asiaticus* that causes citrus greening *Huanglongbing* (HLB), a disease which affects citrus trees and is also known as Yellow Dragon disease. The bacterium was detected in the Parish of St. Catherine. A positive diagnosis was done at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies, using Real time PCR.

2. Rapid delimiting survey showed that the HLB and its vector, the citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri*, were present throughout the island.

3. In an effort to manage the disease, technical assistance was sought from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). TCP-JAM-330 was approved and launched in November 2010 to provide assistance in specific areas including:

- (a) Facilitate the production and availability of clean nursery stock:
  - Construction of Budwood facilities;
  - Construction of a demonstration nursery.
- (b) Development of an Area -wide Management Programme:
  - Organization of management areas for commercial citrus growers (Management Clusters) and implementation of two prototype areas;
  - Development of an integrated management programme for residential citrus growers found in commercial management areas.
- (c) Public Awareness Program - This will emphasize the serious problem to various stakeholders and focus on the need for using certified nursery material;
- (d) Establishment of a model plot at the Montpellier Research Station;
- (e) Four technical consultancies;

- (f) Increased capacity to produce pathogen free material through a shoot tip grafting programme;
- (g) Improved capacity for the diagnostic testing for HLB through training and laboratory construction.

Under the TCP, items b, d, g and h above are currently being implemented.

4. Measures to restrict the spread of the Citrus Greening Disease include:

- (a) The Plant Quarantine Branch, Jamaica's NPPO, has issued The Plants (Quarantine) (Citrus Greening Disease) (Huanglongbing) Order, 2010, indicating that Citrus Greening disease is a notifiable plant pest;
- (b) Currently a Citrus Nursery Order is being prepared;
- (c) An island wide survey is underway to determine the incidence of the disease in the commercial groves.

5. In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has initiated a biological control programme in collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders to rear and release natural enemies of the psyllid vector in commercial and residential plots.

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