



2020 Competitive Solicitation/Request for Proposals and Invitation to Negotiate to Measure Tree Health in Large-scale Scientific Research Field Trials

RFP Timeline

- 22 April 2020: Call for proposals announced
- 1 June 2020: Proposal must be received by 5:00 pm Eastern Time on June 1, 2020. The proposal shall be no more than five pages plus CVs in length. Negotiations to follow submission.
- July TBD 2020: Board approval of best negotiated proposal or proposals
- July/August TBD: Approved proposal(s) posted to CRAFTFDN.ORG website

- A. Contractual Services Sought: Design and administer objective and standardized tree measurements for large-scale field trial and/or demonstration programs for the purpose of evaluating the efficacy of various HLB (citrus greening) management practices (further described below) closely following Denver Protocol (attached), and to collect and integrate tree measurement data in connection to such field trials. Measure canopy diameters, tree height and trunk diameters once per year in each CRAFT participating grove using designated sentinel trees for measurement or offer equivalent data services for inference of requested physical tree measurements.
- B. Data collection and data management: In the first year of project, 8,000 pre-identified “sentinel” trees are to be measured on approximately 45 separate projects constituting approximately 2000 program acres. Assume in the second year approximately 11,000 trees will be added for a total number of trees to measure in year three of approximately 20,000 trees located on approximately 5,000 project acres and additional 65 projects. Where possible, Vendor should adhere to measurement methods as published in the “Denver Protocol,” or equivalents to those physical measurements where supported by research and practical application for the suggested Denver Protocol measurements of trunk diameter, canopy volume and canopy density measurements. To the extent appropriate, data collected will be standardized in method of collection, and reported on standardized forms, exportable into the CRAFT USDA data portal, or can be input directly by Vendor into U.S.D.A. portal through dedicated entry point. Vendors are encouraged to reach out to persons in academic, government and CRAFT stakeholder community for any information deemed important for inclusion in proposal.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is open to any vendor/data partner qualified to measure outcomes in field trials of HLB management practices in any citrus producing region of Florida. Recipient Vendor ("Vendor") of contract through this RFP may partner with other governmental agencies, not-for-profit or for-profit businesses and vendors to implement the plan of work. Cost share elements are encouraged if similar services are required from third parties including other research institutions.

The Florida Legislature and USDA has provided Citrus Research and Field Trials Foundation Inc. (CRAFT) with funding the administration and execution of large scale research field trials to demonstrate the impact of utilizing a combination of management and therapeutic tools for new plantings, including, but not limited to, grove design, planting preparation, pest management and post planting production practices to promote increased production of citrus.

The goal of CRAFT is to use develop best management practices for growing citrus in the HLB era.

C. Examples of field trial components and/or areas of inquiry the services requested to evaluate include projects testing the following:

1. Grove design, planting preparation, new tolerant/resistant varieties or rootstocks and/or scions.
2. Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) or other pest management tools and strategies.
3. Horticultural practices (irrigation, nutrition, etc.) for best HLB disease management, including those affecting standard industry varieties and rootstocks.
3. Management of interactions between HLB and other citrus diseases (e.g. Canker, Black Spot, Blight) and other pests.
4. Other management practices chosen by the grower.

D. Criteria Used to Evaluate Proposal:

1. Vendor should suggest schedule for measuring trees at regular intervals over a period of four to six years to demonstrate year-over-year changes in plant health and biomass production. Price breaks for annual or every other year should be included, if any.
2. Project cost will be considered during evaluation but will be secondary to accuracy of data, and to overall potential project benefit and usefulness to CRAFT and the Florida Citrus Industry.
3. The proposal should indicate multi-year options, the funding of which is dependent on appropriation by the Florida Legislature and U.S.D.A. Renewal of contract and costs should be addressed in the proposal.
4. Ability to attract additional and cost off-setting funding for measurement program based upon private services rendered at project locations. (Example- economies favoring CRAFT if Vendor combines CRAFT measurements with other private contractual services with project growers, whose sentinel trees in project are measured.
5. Graphics from data to communicate and to educate growers on field trial results related to measurement.

6. Plan for data collection measuring tree biomass including trunk diameter, canopy volume and tree height. Describe what data will be collected, and how and when it will be collected.
7. Prior relevant experience of Vendor in administering similar or related programs.
8. If any measurements are omitted from proposal, indicate price economies and suggest why inference from other measurements would accomplish goal of measuring biomass and tree health.
9. Ability of measurement data set to compare tree health and measurements of individual CRAFT projects to other projects, and blocks within a single project.
10. Analytical tools based on measurements
11. Any additional tools/add-ons that Vendor can offer at a cost/and or no cost as part of services to CRAFT

F. Deliverables:

1. Submit measurements to CRAFT for integration into U.S.D.A. database and quarterly reports to CRAFT to inform CRAFT of status of program, results, execution issues;
2. Agree that collected data is subject to public records laws and may be analyzed and used to help educate and inform the Florida citrus industry at large; and

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Response to RFP is limited to five pages, exclusive of attachments, and may be for a period of 24 months with renewal option for additional 24 months.

All proposals shall include:

1. Principal operators, negotiator contact, addresses, best telephone contact numbers with contact emails.
2. Describe how Vendor would solve the problem of measuring sentinel trees in CRAFT project groves.
3. Summarize the approach recommended to meet the objectives of CRAFT in correlating mitigation practices to tree health using measurements provided by Vendor. Attach any research or internal data available on equivalency of Vendor methods to physical measurements.
4. Budget: Propose total cost to CRAFT for each year of contract, including renewal years. Costs may include proposed budget and proposed compensation schedules basis per tree, per project, per acre or however Vendor proposes to calculate compensation for services. Prices per measurement can be express in ala cart fashion for review of less or more services in proposal
5. Timeline and Milestones: Provide a timeline for objectives and deliverables.

6. Resources: List how the available resources/facilities are suited to accomplish the project objectives.

Email completed proposals to kristen@craftfdn.org on or before June 1, 2020, 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

All questions should be emailed to kristen@craftfdn.org

Proposals are reviewed by the CRAFT Staff and Committees and may be reviewed by external ad hoc expert reviewers, with recommendations to be considered and approved by the CRAFT Board of Directors. The list of Proposal(s) selected for negotiation will be posted to CRAFTFDN.org web page.