Efforts to Mitigate, Contain and Prevent Citrus Greening in Belize & the Tri-National Plan

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Fermin Blanco
45,000 Citrus Acres

500 growers
10,000 workers

Citrus Products of Belize Limited
6.5 – 7m cxs / yr

Belize Citrus Growers Association
1. Finding Greening-HLB

2. The First Year

3. International Alliances
Finding Greening-HLB
Exotic Disease Surveys
Every 6 Months

CANKER
LEPROSIS
CVC

HLB
Greening
Psyllid Sampling

Jan 2009

HLB +ve

Main citrus production areas
The First Year
Emergency Legislation

Restricted Movement of Citrus Plants

Belize Agricultural Health Authority

BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT
NO. 122 OF 2009

REGULATIONS made by Belize Agricultural Health Authority with the approval of the Minister responsible for Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 35 and 86 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act, Chapter 21 of the Substantive Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2000-2003; and all other powers thereunto it enabling.

CONSIDERING the importance of the citrus industry to Belize;

GIVEN the fact that it has been confirmed that the bacteria (Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus) that causes the devastating citrus disease known as citrus greening or huanglongbing is now present in Belize;

RECOGNIZING the fact that significant spread of this disease occurs due to the movement of plant material that is either infected with the bacterium or carrying the infected psyllid Diaphorina citri;

IT IS RESOLVED that immediate measures need to be implemented to restrict the movement of planting material (citrus and other hosts of the disease or vector) (except fruits) until officers of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority advise the

These Regulations may be cited as the

BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NOTIFIABLE PLANT PEST) (CITRUS GREENING) REGULATIONS, 2009.
HLB-Diagnostic Capacity Established

Tests provided free to growers
HLB Finds in Belize
May 2009 to June 2010

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<tr>
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<th>+ve</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backyard tree</td>
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Main citrus producing areas
Psyllid Control

Remove infected Trees

Certified Plants
Remove infected Trees

Public Awareness

Psyllid Control

Certified Plants

US$350,000
Public Awareness Campaigns
Legislation

All Nurseries Required to be Screened from February 2010
Budwood Multiplication Blocks
Area Wide Control of ACP

> Biological control:
  - Brown Citrus Aphid
  - Citrus Leafminer
  - Citrus Black Fly
  - Scales

> Tamarixia radatia in Belize

> Dry season insecticide use

> Targeted release of *T. radiata*
International Alliances
Nation-wide HLB Programme
Tri-national ACP/HLB Program

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USA – Mexico - Belize
Tri-national ACP/HLB Program
Tri-national ACP/HLB Program

Objective

“Develop and implement a coordinated program in the participating countries against HLB and ACP”

USA – Mexico - Belize
Agreement to:

> Conduct surveillance for HLB
> Remove HLB infected trees – if possible
> Establish laboratories for HLB detection
> Control ACP
> Produce nursery stock in a closed structure
> Conduct training and outreach
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