



PROJECT

# PRE-HLB

## Preventing HLB epidemics for ensuring citrus survival in Europe

*The aim is to develop and implement a holistic contingency plan to protect the citrus sector in the EU from HLB disease drivers and to co-create new solutions to manage the disease through a multidisciplinary approach and in collaboration with experienced partners from America and Asia*



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 817526

# 24

PARTNERS

# 9

COUNTRIES

# €6.6 M

TOTAL BUDGET

# 4

YEARS



## PreHLB

01  
Challenge

The EU citriculture is threatened by an emerging disease called **Huanglongbing (HLB)**. This is currently considered **the most devastating citrus disease** due to: its rapid dispersal, severity and fast progression of symptoms; huge losses in fruit production and quality, cost and difficulty of preventing new infections, and lack of resistant citrus varieties and economically feasible treatments for infected trees. **EU is at risk because the vector *T. erytrae* has been detected and is spreading in Spain and Portugal.**

02  
Solution

**PRE-HLB will implement preventive actions** and tools to limit HLB potential introduction, reducing the economic impact in EU; **mid term** HLB surveillance, contingency and control strategies: up to 100,000 Ha will be monitored to obtain field information on potential HLB infection and dynamics of the vector in the subareas of highest risk, thus limiting disease spread. PRE-HLB will develop, also a **long-term** research in vector biology, host/vector/pathogen interactions, Aurantioideae genetics and genomics, as well as to develop new biotechnological tools, such as new effectors, metabolites, bio-stimulants and biopesticides.

03  
Impacts

HLB can reduce citrus production by 61 %, which entails an economic annual loss in EU orange, mandarin and lemon production of 34.35, 17.46 and 7.4M euros, respectively. HLB disease poses a threat to more than 516 million trees throughout EU. HLB social impact will be huge, only considering the Spanish sector it would involve the loss of more than 100,000 jobs. PRE-HLB expects to reduce the above-mentioned impacts by 40%.

EN UN CLICK

Coordinador

CSIC

Sector

Agriculture

Programa

HORIZON 2020

Web

[www.prehlb.eu](http://www.prehlb.eu)

Fechas

2019-2023