7.1 Laws, Huanglongbing Management, and the Current Status of the Disease in São Paulo, Brazil

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Huanglongbing (HLB) was first reported in São Paulo State (SPS), Brazil, in March 2004. A survey conducted in SPS in 2010 estimated that 1.87% of the total number of sweet orange trees in SPS were symptomatic. The main producing areas in SPS (Center and South) presented the highest HLB incidences (3.5% and 2.0%, respectively). In 2005, the Federal Government approved the first regulatory legislation, imposing, among others, the mandatory eradication of all HLB-affected trees. In 2006 and 2008, new regulatory rules were ordered in an effort to reinforce growers to adopt the recommended practices for HLB management. However, in spite of the rules, the regulatory agencies were not efficient and only a small number of growers completely followed the law. New foci were detected in areas hitherto not affected and the disease increased rapidly in the affected ones. With only about one-third of the citrus acreage being under effective HLB management, the many non-managed orchards are major handicaps to statewide successful management. It is estimated that 6 to 8 million trees have been eradicated in SPS since 2004. The recommended practices for preventive HLB management are based on (i) inoculum reduction by frequent removal of symptomatic trees, (ii) control of psyllid vector populations by insecticide treatments, and (iii) use of healthy trees from insect-proof, covered nurseries in the case of resets. This three-pronged, short-term system is the only one that keeps most of the orchard trees free of HLB until new HLB-resistant trees become available as a long-term solution. The current HLB status of SPS citrus farms that have adopted the three-pronged system during the last 6 years will be presented and discussed.