Different HLB Management Cases in China

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Outline

- Overview of citriculture and citrus HLB in China
- Successful case Ganzhou, Jiangxi
- Struggling case Longmeng, Guangdong
- Successful & struggling cases Guilin, Guangxi
- Selected answers to our questions & takehome message

Provincial Distribution of China's Citrus Industry

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Huanglongbing (HLB) Zones & Severity in China



Citriculture in China (Different from the US)

- ~56% are mandarin types, ~28% orange types, and ~16% others.
- Most citrus orchards are composed of many very small, family-based patches adjacent to each other in an area.
- Almost all citrus trees are planted in hilly / mountainous land with some rocky soil, and in very high density.
- Most have no irrigation system or seldom use if installed, and growth largely depends on the mother nature.
- Animal manures are predominantly used fertilizer in most patches.
- Most trees are dwarf or short, due to the above and other factors.
- Almost all culture activities depends on man power, with little / no modern mechanic operation.
- Outdoor budwoods and nurseries remain very common.
- Provincial and local governments, together with scientists & specialists, play varying roles and have much involvement in local citrus industry.

Citrus Culitvar Types and Percentages in China



Latitudes of Citrus Regions in China and the US



Success in Navel Orange HLB Management, Ganzhou, Jiangxi





Ganzhou-1. All small, family-based patches

Ganzhou-2. Always hilly and mountainous

3 Marilla

Ganzhou-3. Productive, and with premium quality & price

Summary for the Ganzhou, Jiangxi Case

- All new planation around 2000, with new regulations
- <u>Mandated regulations led by the local government</u>
 - A department from the (district) city to every county specifically focus on the whole business of navel orange and enforce the regulations, with <u>budget for HLB management</u>;
 - Only certified pathogen-free nursery trees;
 - Area-wide coordinated psyllid control (spray);
 - Removal of infected trees with some compensation;

Other beneficial factors

- Hilly and mountainous geography help the isolation of small orchards each other.
- Cold climate and <u>down to -3°C a few days each year</u> in the winter are very unfavorable for overwinter of psyllids.
- Family-based farming and cheaper labor allow handy removal of summer shoots to minimize the infection possibility.
- So far so good (< 1 incidence per 10,000 trees)

Struggle in Citrus HLB Management, Longmen County, Guangdong



Longmen-1. Little hope vs. some hope

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Longmen-2. "Little hope!"

Longmen-3. "Some hope!"

F

Longmen-4. "Some trees better than no trees!"

Longmen-5. "Bear fruits, now!"

Longmen-6. "Bear more fruits, please!"

Longmen-7. "Bye-bye, bad bugs!"

Summary for The Longmen County, Guangdong Case (Different from Ganzhou, Jiangxi)

- Old citrus production region, and no mandated regulations
- Two local mandarin varieties, Shatangju and Nianju, predominant in plantation
- Investment for psyllid/HLB management, largely driven by market and profit (not so constant!)
- Competition of resources and budget with other major fruit crops
- Extra steps to promote fruiting early and more
- Very highly infected rate (many patches up to 100%)
- More like a niche market crop



Guilin-1A. No good!

Guilin-1B. Good at a not-far patch.

Guilin-2A. Too much yellow radiating out!



Guilin-2B. No yellow found at an adjacent patch.

NAT Y

Summary for The Guiling, Guangxi Case (Different from Ganzhou, Jiangxi)

- Old citrus production region, and no mandated regulations
- The difference between "no good" and "good" is whether family-based farmers <u>constantly</u> suppress the vector, and follow recommended management standards.
 - If not, the price is high: 1A. Use of infected nursery trees and poor psyllid control; 2A. No removal of infected trees
 - If yes, the reward is obvious: 1B./2B. Low HLB incidence and productive
- Mandated regulations under consideration now.

Preparation for Clean Mother Trees and Budwood

Guangxi



Selected Answers to Our Questions

- How many sprays specifically to control psyllids each year? A) 3; B) 4; C) Psyllid-oriented pesticides added in every spray
- When to spray?

A) When spring, summer, fall shoots start sprouting, plus a fall extra; B) When needed by monitoring psyllids; C) Follow the year-round schedule

When and how to remove the infected trees?

A) Once a year in the fall when fruits are picked and trees are sprayed; B) Remove after confirmed and orchard is sprayed; C) never remove until no production or dead

- What is the most essential for success in HLB management?
 A) <u>Control psyllids</u>
- Why to abandon the groves?

A) Not profit enough



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