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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Texas A&M University	2009	Horticulture
M.S.	Texas A&M University-Kingsville	2003	Plant and Soil Science
PGDPM	University of Hyderabad, India	1998	Planning and Project Management
B.Sc.	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, India	1995	Agricultural Sciences

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Academic

2021-	Associate Research Professor
2015-2020	Assistant Research Professor, Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness, and Environmental Sciences Texas A&M University-Kingsville
2011-2015	Project Director Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center
2005-2011	Research Associate Texas A&M University- Kingsville Citrus Center
2004	Research Associate, USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center Baylor College of Medicine

Non-Academic

1999-2001	Production Officer Pioneer Hi-Bred Seeds Limited, India
1996-1997	Sales Officer EID Parry (India) Limited

GRADUATE FACULTY

Graduate Faculty Membership

1. 2009-Present: Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness, and Environmental Sciences, TAMUK
2. 2012-Present: Plant–Associated Microorganisms / Plant Health (Horticulture, MEPS) in the Department of Horticulture, Texas A&M-College Station.

Courses taught at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

1. PLSS-4326 & PLSS5390- Horticulture and Fruit Crop Production, Spring semester, 2021
2. PLSS 5351, Advanced Plant Propagation, fall semester, 2019
3. Three guest lectures, PLSS 6377, Genetics of Crop Improvement, fall semester, 2017
4. Three guest lecture classes, PLSS6390, Advanced Biotechnology, fall semester, 2016
5. One class, PLSS6390, Practical Application of Biotechnology, fall semester, 2015
6. Two classes, PLSS6390, Introduction to Plant Biotechnology, fall semester, 2014
7. Two classes, PLSS6377, Genetics of Crop Improvement, fall semester, 2012
8. 50% classes between Drs. Kunta & Louzada, PLSS6390, Advances in Plant Biotechnology, Fall semester, 2011
9. PLSS 6390, Plant Propagation: Theory and Experiments, spring semester, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

1. Park, J.-W., J. V. da Graça, M. Sétamou & M. Kunta. 2021. Diversity of Citrus tristeza virus strains in the Upper Gulf Coast of Texas. Plant Disease 105: 592-598.
2. Perez, E., M. Kunta, V. Ancona, J. V. da Graça, C. Ayin, G. Santilla & V. Mavrodieva. 2021. The return of Asiatic citrus canker to Texas: Surveys and eradication efforts. Plant Health Progress 22: 143-148.
3. Kunta, M., S. Chavez, Z. Viloria, H. S. del Rio, M. Devanaboina, G. Yanev & E. S. Louzada. 2020. Screening of citrus genotypes for *Phytophthora nicotianae* tolerance. HortScience 55:1038-1044.
4. Oke, A., A. Oladigbolu, M. Kunta, O. Alabi & M. Sétamou. 2020. First report of the occurrence of Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Lividae), an invasive species in Nigeria, West Africa. Scientific Reports 10: Article 9418.
5. da Graça, J. V., M. E. Van Ness, & M. Kunta. 2020. The Texas certified virus-free citrus budwood program after 20 years. Subtropical Agriculture & Environments 71: 23-28.
6. Park, J.-W., J. V. da Graça, M. Sétamou & M. Kunta. Diversity of Citrus tristeza virus strains in the Upper Gulf Coast of Texas. Plant Disease. https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-02-20-0410-RE
7. Braswell, W., J.-W. Park, P. A. Stansly, B. C. Kostyk, E. S. Louzada, J.V. da Graça, and M. Kunta. 2020. Root samples provide early and improved detection of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus in citrus. Nature Scientific Reports 10: Article 16982.
8. Setamou, M., O. J. Alabi, M. Kunta, J. Dale, and J. da Graca. 2020. Distribution of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in citrus and the Asian citrus psyllid in Texas over a decade. Plant Disease 104:1118-1126.
9. Garza, B., V. Ancona, J. Enciso, H. L. Perotto-Baldivieso, M. Kunta & C. Simpson. 2020. Quantifying citrus tree health using true color UAV images. Remote Sensing 12 (1): 170.
10. Chaudhary, S., D. A. Laughlin, M. Setamou, J. V. da Graca, M. Kunta, O. J. Alabi, K. Crosby, K. Ong, and V. Ancona. 2020. Disease incidence and severity of *Phytophthora* foot rot in the LRGV. Plant Disease. https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-07-19-1493-RE.
11. Kunta, M., L. Guzman, A.C. Garcia, H.S. del Rio, J. C. Melgar, & E. S. Louzada . 2019. Evaluation of physiological parameters in citrus plants transformed with cyclic nucleotide gated ion channel (CNGC) gene. Acta Horticulturae 1230: 107-115.
12. Salas, B., H.E. Conway, M. Kunta, D. Vacek, and C. Vitek. 2018. Pathogenicity of *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* and Other Yeast Species to Mexican Fruit Fly (Diptera: Tephritidae) and Mass Rearing Implications. J. Econo. Entomol. 111(5):2081-2088.
13. Park, J.-W., E. S. Louzada, W. E. Braswell, P. A. Stansly, J. V. da Graça, G. McCollum, J. E. Rascoe & M. Kunta. 2018. A new diagnostic real-time PCR method for huanglongbing detection in citrus root tissue. J. General Plant Pathol. 84(5):359-367.
14. Park, J.-W., M. Kunta, G. McCollum, M. Gonzalez, and J. V. da Graça. 2018. Development of a sensitive real-time PCR detection method for Citrus tatter leaf virus. J. Plant Pathol. 100(1):67-73.
15. Nishikawa, F., E. Louzada, J. C. Melgar, M. Kunta and M. Setamou. 2017. Effects of planting bed and plastic mesh as ground cover on flowering of citrus trees. Bulletin of the NARO Institute of Fruit Tree and Tea Science 1: 1-8.
16. Kunta, M., J.-W. Park, P. Vedasharan, J. V. da Graça and M. D. Terry. 2018. First report of *Colletotrichum queenslandicum* on Persian lime causing leaf anthracnose in the USA. Plant Disease 102:677.
17. Kunta, M., Z. Zheng, F. Wu, J. da Graça, J.-W. Park, X. Deng and J. Chen. 2017. A draft whole genome sequence of "Candidatus Liberbacter asiaticus" strain TX2351 from Asian citrus psyllids in Texas, USA. Genome Announcements 5: e00170-17.
18. da Graça, J. V., M. Kunta, J.-W. Park, M. Gonzalez, G. Santillana, V. Mavrodieva, D. W. Bartels, B. Salas, M. N. Duffel and J. Dale. 2017. Occurrence of a citrus canker strain with limited host specificity in south Texas. Plant Health Progress 18: 196-203.

19. Setamou, M., O. J. Alabi, M. Kunta, J. L. Jifon, and J. V. da Graça. 2016. Enhanced acquisition rates of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' by the Asian citrus psyllid (Hemiptera: Liviidae) in the presence of vegetative flush growth in citrus. Journal of Economic Entomology 109(5):1973-1978.
20. Louzada, E. S., O. Vazquez, E. Braswell, G. Yanev, M. Devanaboina, and M. Kunta. 2016. Distribution of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus above and below ground in Texas Citrus. Phytopathology 106(7):702-709.
21. Malik, N. S. A., A. Nuñez, L. C. McKeever, M. Kunta, D. Douds, and D. S. Needleman. 2016. Mycorrhizal fungi collected from the rhizospheres around different olive cultivars vary in their ability to improve growth and polyphenol levels in leeks. Journal of Agricultural Sciences 8:1-10.
22. Satpute, A., N. S. A. Malik, J. L. Perez, J. V. da Graça & M. Kunta. 2015. Changes in polyphenols in 'Rio Red' grapefruit leave in response to Elsinoë australis infection. Phytoparasitica 43(5): 629-636.
23. Kunta, M., B. Salas, M. Gonzales and J. V. da Graca. 2015. First report of citrus dry root rot caused by *Fusarium solani* on sour orange rootstock in Texas. Journal of Citrus Pathology 2(1): iocv_journalcitruspathology_27974. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/5jt380gp
24. Malik, N. S. A., J. Perez, and M. Kunta. 2015. Inducing flushing in citrus cultivars and changes in polyphenols associated with bud break and flowering. Journal of Horticulture 2(3): doi 10.4172/2376-0354.10000148
25. da Graça, J. V., M. Kunta, M. Sétamou, J. Rascoe, W. Li, M. K. Nakhla, B. Salas & D. W. Bartels. 2015. Huanglongbing in Texas: Report on the first detections in commercial citrus. Journal of Citrus Pathology 2:1-6. http://escholarship.org/uc/item/99p100ts
26. Malik, N. S. A., J. L. Perez, M. Kunta, and M. Olanya. 2015. Changes in polyphenol levels in Satsuma (*Citrus unshiu*) leaves in response to Asian citrus psyllid infestation and water stress. The Open Agriculture Journal 9: 1-5.
27. LeVesque, C., L. Kumagai, M. Keremane, H. Lin, M. Kunta, J. Morgan, D. G. Hall, J. V. da Graça, and M. Polek. 2014. Detection of Liberibacter asiaticus in a single infected Asian citrus psyllid adult or nymph: Impact of dilution with clean Asian citrus psyllids (*Diaphorina citri*) during extraction. J. Citrus Pathol. 1(1):87-91.
28. Malik, N.S.A., J. L. Perez, M. Kunta, J. M. Patt and R. L. Mangan. 2013. Changes in free amino acids and polyamine levels in Satsuma leaves in response to Asian citrus psyllid infestations and water stress. Insect Science 21: 707-716.
29. Ruiz, A., C. C. Parra, J.V. da Graça, B. Salas, N.S.A. Malik and M. Kunta. 2014. Molecular characterization and pathogenicity assays of *Colletotrichum acutatum*, causal agent for lime anthracnose in Texas. Revista Mexicana de Fitopatologia 32: 52-61.
30. Thinakaran, J., E. Pierson, M. Kunta, J. Munyaneza, C. Rush & D. Henne. 2015. Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), a reservoir host for 'Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum', the putative causal agent of Zebra Chip Disease of potato. Plant Disease 99:910-915.
31. Alabi, O., M. Kunta, J. Dale, and M. Setamou. 2014. Survey and detection of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' in a citrus nursery facility in South Texas. Plant Health Progress 15:184-188.
32. Kunta, M., Z. Viloria, H. S. del Rio, and E. S. Louzada. 2014. Diverse DNA extraction methods and PCR primers for detection of Huanglongbing-associated bacteria from roots of 'Valencia' sweet orange on sour orange rootstock. Scientia Horticulturae 178: 23-30.
33. Kunta, M., J.V. da Graça, N. Malik, E. S. Louzada, and M. Sétamou. 2014. Quantitative distribution of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus in the aerial parts of the HLB-infected citrus trees in Texas. HortScience 49: 65-68.
34. Malik, N. S. A., J. L. Perez and M. Kunta. 2013. Changes in free amino acid levels in sour orange leaves in response to clod stress and during recovery from cold stress. International Journal of Food, Agriculture & Environment 11: 1086-1089.
35. Kunta, M., M. Palm, J. Rascoe, P. B. de Sa, L. W. Timmer, J. V. da Graça, R. L. Mangan, N. S. A. Malik, B. Salas, A. Satpute, M. Sétamou, and M. Skaria. 2013. Sweet Orange Scab with a new scab disease "syndrome" of citrus in the U.S.A. associated with Elsinoë australis. Tropical Plant Pathol. 38: 203-212.

36. Schneider, S. J., J. V da Graça, M. Skaria, C. R. Little, M. Sétamou & M. Kunta. 2013. A visual rating scale for quantifying severity of greasy spot disease on grapefruit leaves. International Journal of Fruit Science 13: 459-465.

37. Malik, N. S. A., J. L. Perez and M. Kunta. 2012. The effect of leaf presence on the rooting of stem cutting of bitter melon and on changes in polyamine levels. Agricultural Sciences 3: 936-940.

38. Kunta, M., H. S. del Rio, M. Skaria, and E. S. Louzada. 2010. Isolation and molecular characterization of a putative ascorbate peroxidase gene from citrus. International Journal of Fruit Science 10: 1-15.

39. Kunta, M., H. Miao, T. Shigaki, J. L. Perez and M. Skaria. 2010. *Ganoderma* infecting citrus in Texas is a unique taxon within the *Ganoderma lucidum* complex: evidence from the ITS region. Pest Technology 4: 62-64.

40. Thomas, T. P., M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, A. Bhattacharya, M. Sétamou, and M. Skaria. 2010. Effect of viroids on resistance to *Phytophthora* infection of citrus. HortScience 45(7): 1069-1072.

41. Reddy, V. S., M. Kunta, S. D. Nelson, J. V. da Graça, and M. Skaria. 2010. Gene expression studies in sour orange and C-22 rootstocks challenged with the fungus, *Phytophthora nicotianae* and the nematode, *Tylenchulus semipenetrans*. Pest Technology 4(1): 29-34.

42. Kunta, M. and M. Skaria. 2007. Molecular distinction of citrus *Phytophthora* isolates in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Subtropical Plant Science 58:1-5.

43. Kunta, M., J. V. da Graça, and M. Skaria. 2007. Molecular detection and prevalence of Citrus viroids in Texas. HortScience 42(3):600-604.

44. Pitman, J. K., Ning-Hui Cheng, Toshiro Shigaki, M. Kunta and Kendal D. Hirschi. 2004. Functional dependence on calcineurin by variants of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae vacuolar Ca+2/H+ exchanger Vcx1p. Molecular Microbiology 54(4):1104-1116.

Nonrefereed Articles

1. McCollum, G., M. Kunta & E. Braswell. 2018. Improving early detection of HLB- affected trees. Citrograph 9(1): 50-54.

2. Salas B., M. Kunta, C. Vitek, and A. Jasso. 2013. Efficacy of chemicals on the survival of *Elsinoe australis* on citrus fruits with symptoms of sweet orange scab (SOS). CPHST Mission laboratory annual report, p20-21.

3. Braswell E., M. Kunta, and E. Louzada. 2013. Evaluating citrus root tissue as a target for early and efficient detection of HLB disease, CPHST Mission laboratory annual report, p34-36.

4. Technical Working Group (TWG) Report Sweet Orange Scab ((*Elsinöe australis*). 2010. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/citrus/downloads/sweet_orange/sos-twg-report.pdf

Referred Abstracts (*A partial list*)

1. Park, J.-W., M. Kunta, E. Louzada, M. Gonzalez, & J.V. da Graca. 2019. Investigations into an oak leaf-inducing agent detected in citrus in Texas. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, Journal of Citrus Pathology. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

2. da Graca, J. V., J.-W. Park, G. Cook, E. S. Louzada, J. E. Rascoe & M. Kunta. 2019. A new real-time PCR method for the detection of *Candidatus* Liberibacter africanus (CLaf) in citrus root tissue. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, Journal of Citrus Pathology. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

3. Alabi, O. J., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, J. Dale, & J. V. da Graca. 2019. A decade of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' and its Asian citrus psyllid vector in Texas: an epidemiological insight. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, Journal of Citrus Pathology. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

4. Ramadugu C., J. Snyder, S. Dowling, S. Halbert, E. Rohrig, M. Kunta, O. Alabi, M. Setamou, R. Kubota, D. Jenkins & M. Roose. 2019. Developing field detection systems and characterizing other

Liberibacters associated with citrus HLB. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, Journal of Citrus Pathology. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

5. Jenkins, D., C. Ramadugu, J. Snyder, S. Dowling, S. Halbert, E. Rohrig, M. Kunta, O. Alabi, M. Setamou, R. Kubota & M. Roose. 2019. Evaluating lighting preferences to enhance trapping efficacy of Asian Citrus Psyllid. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, Journal of Citrus Pathology. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

6. da Graca, J. V., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, and M. Keremane. 2019. Case study of Huanglongbing development of a single grapefruit tree in Texas, a decade of incubation. Proceedings of the Joint IOCV XXI and the IRCHLB VI, J. Citrus Pathol. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/1zp421bn

7. Park, J.-W., J. Brockington, E. Louzada, B. Kostyk, P. Stansly, G. McCollum, J. V. da Graca, W. E. Braswell, & M. Kunta. 2018. Diagnosis of huanglongbing-associated Candidatus Liberibacter species in citrus roots by real-time PCR using primers targeting 16s rDNA and nrdB genes. Phytopathology suppl.108: 1.61.

8. Alabi, O. J., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, J. Dale, & J. V. da Graca. 2018. Prevalence of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in citrus and Asian citrus psyllid in Texas over a 10-year period (2007-2016). Phytopathology suppl.108: S1.62.

9. Avila, C., J.-W. Park & M. Kunta. 2018. Evaluation of real-time PCR primer sets for the diagnosis of huanglongbing (HLB) in citrus root tissue. Abstract in FASEB vol 32 Apr. Suppl.

10. Park, J.W., J. Brockington, C. Medelez, M. Gonzalez, E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graca & M. Kunta. 2018. Citrus fibrous roots: an alternative sources material for Huanglongbing (HLB) diagnosis at pre-symptomatic stage. http://www.subplantsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/SAE-Proceedings-2018.pdf.

11. Kunta, M., S. Chavez, Z. Viloria, G. Yanev, M. Devanaboina, E. Louzada. 2019. Screening citrus genotypes for *Phytophthora nicotianae* tolerance. Phytopathology suppl.109-10: S2.91.

12. Kunta, M., J. W. Park, M. Gonzalez, P. Vedasharan, J. V. da Graça. 2017. Development of a sensitive real-time PCR detection method for *Citrus tatter leaf virus*. Phytopathology 107: S5.54.

13. Park, J. –W., W. E. Braswell, P. Stansly, J. Rascoe, E. Louzada, G. McCollum, J. V. da Graça, M. Kunta. 2017. A new diagnostic real-time PCR method for huanglongbing detection in citrus root tissue. Phytopathology 107: S5.54.

14. M. Kunta., P. Vedasharan, J. -W. Park, E. Louzada. 2017. First report of *Armillaria* spp. infecting citrus trees on sour orange rootstock in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. Phytopathology Suppl. 107: S5.98.

15. da Graca, J.V., M. Kunta, M. Sétamou, V. Ancona, E.S. Louzada, O.J. Alabi, D.W. Bartels, M.N. Duffel, and J. Dale. 2017. Huanglongbing in Texas 2012-2017–an update. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

16. Keremane, M.L., M.L. ROOSE, A. Howe, S.E. Halbert, A. Dickens, T. Smith, O. Alabi, M. Kunta, M. Setamou, R. Kubota, D. Jenkins, R. Lee1, and C. Ramadugu. 2017. Development of tools to conduct field-testing of HLB-associated Liberibacters for disease mitigation. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

17. Levesque, C., C. Davis, R. Fink, K. Godfrey, H. Jin, M. Keremane, M. Kunta, J. Leveau, W. Ma, G. McCollum, N. McRoberts, J. Morse, and C. Slupsky. 2017. Comparative study of early detection techniques: TX2. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

18. Louzada, E., O. Vazquez, S. Chavez, J. Park, P. Vedasharan, and M. Kunta. 2017. Optimization of PCR for reliable detection of viable *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas) in citrus and estimation of viable CLas in symptomatic grapefruit leaves of different developmental stages during summer and fall. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

19. McCollum, G., M. Keremane, M. Kunta, C. LeVesque, R. Niedz, Y. Duan, and C. Armstrong. 2017. Enhanced “early” detection of CLas infections in citrus. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

20. Park, J., J. Brockington, W.E. Braswell, B.C. Kostyk, P.A. Stansly, E.S. Louzada, J.V. daGraça, and M. Kunta. 2017. Long-term study of huanglongbing diagnosis using fibrous root tissue. iocv_journalcitruspathology_34714.

21. Chavez, S., M. Kunta, and E. Louzada. 2017. Screening for *Phytophthora nicotianae* resistance of different citrus rootstocks and hybrids. http://www.subplantsci.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/71-2017-Porceedings-Poster-abstacts.pdf.
22. McColum, G., C. Levesque, M. Keremane, and M. Kunta. 2016. Variation within and among laboratories in detection of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus using qPCR. Phytopathology106: S4.97.
23. Kunta, M., J. V. da Graça, B. Salas, D. Bartels, J. Park, G. Santillana, and V. Mavrodieva. 2016. Occurrence of a Citrus canker strain of limited host specificity in Texas. Phytopathology106: S4.99.
24. Kunta, M., E. S. Louzada, and P. Vedasharan. 2016. Viability of *Candidatus* Liberibacter *asiaticus* in grapefruit leaves at different stages of maturity and Huanglongbing disease symptom development. Phytopathology Suppl. 106: S4.109.
25. Chaudhary, S., M. Setamou, O. Alabi, J. da Graca, M. Kunta, and V. Ancona. 2016. Incidence and severity of *Phytophthora* disease and assessment of inoculum levels in Texas citrus orchards. Phytopathology106: S4.141.
26. Chaudhary, S., M. Sétamou, O. J. Alabi, J. L. Jifon, M. Kunta, K. Crosby, J. V. da Graca and V. Ancona. 2015. *Phytophthora nicotianae* and huanglongbing cause different nutritional imbalances in grapefruit trees. Phytopathology 105: S4.27.
27. da Graça, J. V. and M. Kunta. 2015. Detection of a *Ca*. Liberibacter americanus variant in Asian citrus psyllids, *Diaphorina citri*, in Texas. Phytopathology Suppl. 105: S4.32.
28. Louzada, E. S., O. Vazquez, S.J. Schneider, and M. Kunta. 2015. Optimization of the detection of viable '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' bacterium in citrus tissue. Phytopathology 105: S4.85.
29. Vazquez, O., E. Louzada, G. Yanev, M. Devanaboina, and M. Kunta. 2015. Distribution of '*Ca*. Liberibacter asiaticus' in roots of sour orange rootstock grafted with sweet orange and in leaves of grapefruit trees. Phytopathology Suppl. 105: S4.142.
30. Alabi, O. J. and M. Kunta. 2014. Evaluation of quantitative PCR for detection of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus in composite plant DNA samples. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.5.
31. Kunta, M., W. Li, J. V. da Graça, L. Levy, C. de la Garza, C. C. Parra, M. Gonzalez, S. Chavez, E. S. Louzada, M. K. Nakhla, and M. Sétamou. 2014. A multi-year search for *Candidatus* Liberibacter spp. in orange jasmine plants in Texas by field surveys and multi-loci PCR assays. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.63.
32. Kunta, M., M. Sétamou, E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graça, and D. W. Bartels. 2014. Citrus Huanglongbing incidence, spread, and current situation in Texas. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.64.
33. Kunta, M., J. Thinakaran, E. Pierson, and D. Henne. 2014. Oversummering of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum' in silverleaf nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.64.
34. Salas, B., E. Braswell, and M. Kunta. 2014. Citrus leprosis and *Brevipalpus* mites in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.102.
35. Salas, B., E. Braswell, and M. Kunta. 2014. Studies on isolation of Elsinoe australis the causal agent of sweet orange scab. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.102.
36. Vazquez, O., S. Chavez, M. Kunta, E. Braswell, M. L. Keremane, R. F. Lee, and E. S. Louzada. 2014. Development of efficient and reliable *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus detection methods in citrus. Phytopathology 104(Suppl. 3):S3.121.
37. Sétamou, M., J. V. da Graça, and M. Kunta. 2014. First Detection of Huanglongbing and implementation of its Mitigation Efforts in Texas. J. Citrus Pathology 1(1): 1.3, p81.
38. Kunta, M., C. de La Garza, J. V. da Graça, M. Sétamou, and E. S. Louzada. 2014. *Candidatus* Liberibacter asisticus detection in the leaves, roots from infected trees and leaves of new shoots from the stumps of the infected sweet orange trees in Texas. J. Citrus Pathology 1:2.16P, p107.
39. Parra, C. C., M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, and E. S. Louzada. 2014. Transcriptome analysis of Huanglongbing-infected sweet orange leaves using RNA sequencing and quantitative PCR. J. Citrus Pathology 1(1): 8.2, p220.

40. Kunta, M., C. de la Garza, J. V. da Graça, C. C. Parra, M. Sétamou, and E. S. Louzada. 2013. Estimation of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' populations in Texas citrus trees. Phytopathology 103(Suppl. 2):S2.75.
41. Louzada, E. S., C. C. Parra, J. V. da Graca, M. Setamou, and M. Kunta. 2013. Transcriptome analysis of 'Valencia' sweet orange response to citrus huanglongbing (HLB) infection. Phytopathology 103(Suppl. 2):S2.86.
42. M. Skaria., A. Satpute, M. Kunta, J. daGraça, J. Perez, and N. Malik. 2012. Recent studies on sweet orange scab (SOS) in Texas. Phytopathology Suppl. 102:S4.110.
43. Kunta, M., M. Sétamou, M. Skaria, J. E. Rascoe, W. Li, M. K. Nakhla, J. V. da Graça. 2012. First report of citrus huanglongbing in Texas. Phytopathology Suppl. 102:S4.66.
44. Kunta, M., W. Li, J. V. da Graça, and L. Levy. 2011. Search for *Candidatus* Liberibacter spp. in citrus and orange jasmine plants and psyllids in Texas by field surveys and multi-loci PCR assays. Phytopathology Suppl. 101:S95.
45. Tanner, J. D., M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, M. Skaria, and S. D. Nelson. 2011. Evidence of a low rate of seed transmission of Citrus tatter leaf virus in citrus. Phytopathology Suppl. 101:S175.
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PRESENTATIONS

International

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3. Thomas, T. P., J. V. da Graca, A. Bhattacharya, M. Kunta, M. Setamou and M. Skaria. 2007. Effect of viroid on resistance to Phytophthora infection of citrus. 17th Conference, International Organization of Citrus Virologists, Adana, Turkey, October 18-26.
4. Kunta, M., E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graça, and M. Skaria. Towards the development of broad-spectrum disease resistance in citrus. 2007 APS annual meeting, San Diego, CA, July 28-31.
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6. S. Marepally, M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, S. Nelson, and M. Skaria. 2008. Molecular identity, infectivity, and differential gene expression associated with Olpidium-like fungus in citrus and vegetables. APS Centennial Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 26-30.
7. Kunta, M., M. Skaria, J. V. da Graça, and T. E. Mirkov. 2008. Progress on the development of broad-spectrum disease resistance in citrus through transformation with CNGCcit and bcl-2 genes. APS Centennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, July 26-30.
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24. M. Skaria, A. Satpute, M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, J. L. Perez, and N. A. Malik. Recent studies on sweet orange scab (SOS) in Texas. APS Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, August 4-8.
25. Kunta, M., M. Sétamou, M. Skaria, J. E. Rascoe, W. Li, M. K. Nakhla, and J. V. da Graça. First report of citrus huanglongbing in Texas. 2012. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, August 4-8.
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28. Sétamou, M., da Graça J., Kunta, M. 2013. First Detection of Huanglongbing and Implementation of its Mitigation Efforts in Texas. 3rd Intl. Research Conference on Huanglongbing-IRCHLB III, Orlando, FL, February 4-8.
29. LeVesque, C., L. Kumagai, M. Keremane, H. Lin, M. Kunta, J. Morgan, D. G. Hall, J. V. da Graça, and M. Polek. 2013. Detection of Liberibacter asiaticus in a single infected Asian citrus psyllid adult or nymph: Impact of dilution with clean Asian citrus psyllids (Diaphorina citri) during extraction. 3rd Intl. Research Conference on Huanglongbing-IRCHLB III, Orlando, FL, February 4-8.
30. Kunta, M., Carolina de La Garza, John V. da Graça, Mamoudou Sétamou, and Eliezer S. Louzada. 2013. Candidatus Liberibacter asisticus detection in the leaves, roots from infected trees and leaves of new shoots from the stumps of the infected sweet orange trees in Texas. 3rd Intl. Research Conference on Huanglongbing-IRCHLB III, Orlando, FL, February 4-8.
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33. Kunta, M., C. de La Garza, J. V. da Graça, C. C. Parra, M. Sétamou, and E. S. Louzada. 2013. Estimation of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus populations in Texas citrus trees. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, August 10-14.
34. Kunta, M., J. V. da Graça, and N. Önelge. 2013. First report of Citrus viroid V infecting citrus plants in Texas. XIXth Conference of the IOCV, Mpumalanga, South Africa, July 28-August 2.
35. Kunta, M., M. Sétamou, E. Louzada, and J. da Graça. 2014. Citrus Huanglongbing incidence spread, and current situation in Texas. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneapolis, MN.
36. Kunta, M., W. Li, J. da Graça, L. Levy, C. deLa Garza, M. Gonzalez, S. Chavez, E. Louzada, M. Nakhla, and M. Sétamou. 2014. A multi-year search for Candidatus Liberibacter spp. in orange jasmine plants in Texas by field surveys and multi-loci PCR assays. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneaplois, MN.
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38. Alabi. O and M. Kunta. 2014. Evaluation of quantitative PCR for detection of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in composite plant DNA samples. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneaplois, MN.
39. Thinakaran, J., E. Pierson, M. Kunta, and D. Henne. 2014. Oversummering of 'Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum' in silverleaf nightshade, Solanum elaeagnifolium, in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneaplois, MN.
40. Salas, B, E. Braswell, R. Farris, M. Kunta. 2014. Citrus leprosis and Brevipalpus mites in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, TX. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneaplois, MN.
41. Salas, B., E. Braswell, J. da Graça, and M. Kunta. 2014. Studies on isolation of Elsinoe australis the causal agent of sweet orange scab. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Minneaplois, MN.
42. Alabi, O.J., M. Kunta, J. Dale, and M. Sétamou. 2015. Survey and detection of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' in a citrus nursery facility in South Texas. 4th IRCHLB Conference, February 9-13, Orlando, FL.

43. M. Kunta., J. V. da Graca, M. Ciomperlik, I. Gibbs, and M. James. 2015. Surveys to determine HLB presence in Asian citrus psyllids and citrus samples from Barbados. 4th IRCHLB Conference, February 9-13, Orlando, FL.
44. Kunta, M., M. Setamou, J.V. da Graca, O.J. Femi, and D. Bartels. 2015. Incidence, spread, and current situation of Huanglongbing in Texas. 4th IRCHLB Conference, February 9-13, Orlando, FL.
45. Li, W., M. Kunta, L. Kumagai, C. Blomquist, C.A. Webb, J. Rascoe, Zonghe Yana, L. Levy, and M. K. Nakhla. 2015. Ten - year screening and confirmatory PCR tests of citrus huanglongbing – performance, challenges and improvements. 4th IRCHLB Conference, February 9-13, Orlando, FL.
46. Vazquez, O., S. Chavez, M. Kunta, E. Braswell, M. L. Keremane, R. F. Lee, and E. S. Louzada. 2015. Distribution of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in roots of Sour orange rootstock grafted with Valencia Sweet orange in Texas. 4th IRCHLB Conference, February 9-13, Orlando, FL.
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48. Louzada, E. S., O. Vazquez, S. J. Schneider, and M. Kunta. 2015. Optimization of the detection of viable 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' bacterium in citrus tissue. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 1-5, Pasadena, CA.
49. Vazquez, O., E. Louzada, G. Yanev, M. Devanaboina, and M. Kunta. 2015. Global distribution of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' in roots of sour orange rootstock grafted with Valencia sweet orange and in leaves of Rio Red grapefruit. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 1-5, Pasadena, CA.
50. da Graca, J. V. and M. Kunta. 2015. Detection of a Ca. Liberibacter americanus variant in Asian citrus psyllids, Diaphorina citri, in Texas. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 1-5, Pasadena, CA.
51. Chaudhary, S., M. Setamou, O. J. Alabi, J. L. Jifon, M. Kunta, K. Crosby, J. V. da Graca, and V. Ancona. 2015. Phytophthora nicotianae and huanglongbing cause different nutritional imbalances in grapefruit trees. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 1-5, Pasadena, CA.
52. Salas, B., A. Jasso, A. Fuentes, E. Braswell, R. Farris, and M. Kunta. 2016. Citrus leprosis and Brevipalpus in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. XX Conference of IOCV, April 10-15, Chongqing, China.
53. Park, J-W., J. Brockington, O. Vazquez, E. Louzada, J. V. da Graca, and M. Kunta. 2016. Huanglongbing (HLB) diagnosis in citrus using fibrous root tissue. XX Conference of IOCV, April 10-15, Chongqing, China.
54. M. Kunta., E. Braswell, M. Gonzalez, E. Louzada, J. V. da Graca, and J-W. Park. 2016. Seasonal effects on Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus titers in grapefruit trees in Texas. XX Conference of IOCV, April 10-15, Chongqing, China.
55. da Graça, J. V., M. Kunta, B. Salas, D. Bartels, J.-W. Park, G. Santillana, and V. Mavrodieva. 2016. Occurrence of a Citrus canker strain of limited host specificity in Texas. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, Tampa, FL.
56. Vedasharan, P., M. Kunta, E. S. Louzada. 2016. Viability of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in grapefruit leaves at different stages of maturity and Huanglongbing disease symptom development. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, Tampa, FL.
57. Setamou, M., O. J. Alabi, M. Kunta, J. L. Jifon, and J. V. da Graca. 2016. Enhanced acquisition rates of 'Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus' by the Asian Citrus Psyllid (Hemiptera: Liviidae) in the presence of vegetative flush growth in citrus. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, Tampa, FL.
58. McCollum, G., C. LeVesque, M. Keremane, and M. Kunta. 2016. Variation within and among laboratories in detection of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus using qPCR. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, Tampa, FL.
59. McCollum, E. Braswell, M. Keremane, M. Kunta, and C. LeVesque. 2016. Early detection of CLas infection in citrus. International Citrus Congress, September 18-23, Foz Do Iguaçu, Brazil.

60. Louzada, E. S., O. Vazquez, G. Yanev, D. Madhavi, and M. Kunta. 2016. Distribution of Candidatus L. asiaticus above and below ground in Texas citrus. International Citrus Congress, September 18-23, Foz Do Iguaçu, Brazil.
61. Alabi, O. J., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, J. L. Jifon, and J. V. da Graca. 2016. Enhanced acquisition rates of CLas by the Asian Citrus Psyllid in the presence of vegetative flush growth in citrus. International Citrus Congress, September 18-23, Foz Do Iguaçu, Brazil.
62. Louzada, E. S., A. Reyes, V. Zenaida, H. S. del Rio, and M. Kunta. 2016. Overexpression of a cyclic nucleotide gated ion channel in citrus induces broad-spectrum disease resistance. International Citrus Congress, September 18-23, Foz Do Iguaçu, Brazil.
63. da Graça, J. V., M. Kunta, J.-W. Park, G. Santillana, V. Mavrodieva, D. W. Bartels, B. Salas, M. N. Duffel, and J. Dale.2016. Occurrence of a citrus canker strain of limited host specificity in Texas. International Citrus Congress, September 18-23, Foz Do Iguaçu, Brazil.
64. Park, J-W., J. Brockington, W. E. Braswell, B. C. Kostyk, P. A. Stansly, E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graca, and M. Kunta. 2017. Long-term Study of Huanglongbing Diagnosis using Fibrous Root Tissue. 5th IRCHLB Conference, March 15-17, Orlando, FL.
65. da Graca, J. V., M. Kunta, M. Setamou, V. Ancona, E. S. Louzada, O. J. Alabi, D. W. Bartels, M. N. Duffel, and J. Dale. 2017. Huanglongbing in Texas 2012-2017–An Update (Oral). 5th IRCHLB Conference, March 15-17, Orlando, FL.
66. Louzada, E. S., O. Vazquez, S. Chavez, J-W. Park, P. Vedasharan, and M. Kunta. 2017. Optimization of PCR for reliable detection of viable Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas) in citrus and estimation of viable CLas in symptomatic grapefruit leaves of different developmental stages during summer and fall. 5th IRCHLB Conference, March 15-17, Orlando, FL.
67. Keremane, M. L., M. L. Roose, A. Howe, S. E. Halbert, T. Smith, O. J. Alabi, M. Kunta, M. Setamou, R. Kubota, D. Jenkins, R. F. Lee, and C. Ramadugu. 2017. Development of tools to conduct field-testing of HLB-associated Liberibacters for disease mitigation. 5th IRCHLB Conference, March 15-17, Orlando, FL.
68. McCollum, G., M. Keremane, M. Kunta, C. LeVesque, R. Niedz, Y. Duan, and C. Armstrong. 2017. Enhanced "early" detection of CLas infections in citrus. 5th IRCHLB Conference, March 15-17, Orlando, FL.
69. Kunta, M., J. W. Park, M. Gonzalez, P. Vedasharan, J. V. da Graça. 2017. Development of a sensitive real-time PCR detection method for Citrus tatter leaf virus. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 5 -August 9, San Antonio, TX.
70. Park, J. –W., W. E. Braswell, P. Stansly, J. Rascoe, E. Louzada, G. McCollum, J. V. da Graça, M. Kunta. A new diagnostic real-time PCR method for huanglongbing detection in citrus root tissue. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 5 -August 9, San Antonio, TX.
71. M. Kunta., P. Vedasharan, J. -W. Park, E. Louzada. 2017. First Report of Armillaria spp. infecting citrus trees on sour orange rootstock in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 5 -August 9, San Antonio, TX.
72. Kunta, M., L. Guzman, A. C. Garcia. H. S. del Rio, J. C. Melgar & E. S. Louzada. 2018. Transformation of citrus plants with cyclic nucleotide-gated channel (CNGC) gene to develop broad-spectrum disease resistance. International Symposium on Citrus Biotechnology, April 2008, Canelones, Uruguay.
73. Park, J.-W., J. Brockington, E. Louzada, B. Kostyk, P. Stansly, G. McCollum, J. V. da Graca, W. E. Braswell, & M. Kunta. Diagnosis of huanglongbing-associated Candidatus Liberibacter species in citrus roots by real-time PCR using primers targeting 16s rDNA and nrdB genes. International Congress of Plant Pathology, July/Aug. 2018, Boston MA.
74. Alabi, O. J., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, J. Dale, & J. V. da Graca. Prevalence of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in citrus and Asian citrus psyllid in Texas over a 10-year period (2007-2016). International Congress of Plant Pathology, July/Aug. 2018, Boston MA.

75. Avila, C., J.-W. Park & M. Kunta. Evaluation of real-time PCR primer sets for the diagnosis of huanglongbing (HLB) in citrus root tissue. American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Conference, April 2018, San Diego CA.
76. Park, J.-W., M. Kunta, E. Louzada, M. Gonzalez, and J.V. da Graca. Investigations into an oak leaf-inducing agent detected in citrus in Texas. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
77. da Graca, J., J-W PARK, Glynnis Cook, Eliezer S. Louzada, J.E. Rascoe, and M. Kunta. A new real-time PCR method for the detection of Candidatus Liberibacter africanus (CLaf) in citrus root tissue. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
78. Alabi, J., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, J. Dale, and J.V. da Graca. A decade of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' and its Asian citrus psyllid vector in Texas: an epidemiological insight. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
79. Ramadugu, C., J. Snyder, S. Dowling, S. Halbert, E. Rohrig, M. Kunta, O. Alabi, M. Setamou, R. Kubota, D. Jenkins, and M. Roose. Evaluating lighting preferences to enhance trapping efficacy of Asian Citrus Psyllid. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
80. da Graca, J.V., M. Setamou, M. Kunta, and M. Keremane. Case study of Huanglongbing development of a single grapefruit tree in Texas, a decade of incubation. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
81. Park, J.W., E.S. Louzada, W. E. Braswell, P.A. Stansly, T. G. McCollum, J.V. da Graca, and M. Kunta. Long-term evaluation of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus detection in citrus root tissue as a tool for improved CLas detection. Joint IOCV-XXI & IRCHLB VI, March 10-15, 2019, Riverside, CA.
82. Park, J.-W., M. Kunta, M. Gonzalez, E. S. Louzada and J.V. da Graça. Identification of a citrus Coguvirus in Texas associated with oak leaf patterns. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 10 -August 14, 2020. Virtual meeting.
83. Park, J.-W., W. E. Braswell, J.V. da Graça, and M. Kunta. Detection of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' by recombination polymerase amplification (RPA) assay. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 10 -August 14, 2020. Virtual meeting.

National

1. da Graça J. V., M. Sétamou, M. Skaria and M. Kunta. Surveys for Citrus Huanglongbing in Texas led to Early Detection. The Caribbean Division of American Phytopathological Society (APS-CD) 52nd annual meeting, South Padre Island, TX, April 16-17.
2. Kunta, M., J. V. da Graça, and M. Sétamou. 2012. Within plant distribution of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in HLB-infected citrus trees in Texas. 2012. 3rd Annual Citrus Health Research Forum, Ft. Collins, CO, August 27-30.
3. Sétamou, M., J. V. da Graça, and M. Kunta. 2013. Citrus greening in Texas: Steps to mitigate this deadly disease. Entomological Society of America, Southeastern Branch Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, March 3-6.
4. Ramadugu, C., M. Roose, M. L. Keremane, D. Jenkins, R. Kubota, A. Howe, J. Snyder, S. Sharma, S. Halbert, O. Alabi, M. Kunta, and M. Setamou. 2018. Characterization of Liberibacter populations and development of field detection system for citrus huanglongbing. National Institute of Food and Agriculture annual meeting, January 25-26.

Regional

1. De Leon, V., M. Kunta, J.-W. Park, and E.S. Louzada. 2020. Investigation of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' Prophages in Texas and Florida. 74th annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
2. Danda, T., M. Kunta, E. Braswell, and J-W. Park. 2020. Development of Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay for the detection of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus', a causal agent of Citrus Huanglongbing (HLB). 74th annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.

3. Park, J.W., J. Brockington, C. Medelez, M. Gonzalez, E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graca & M. Kunta. 2019. Citrus fibrous roots: an alternative sources material for Huanglongbing (HLB) diagnosis at pre-symptomatic stage. 73rd annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
4. Perez, E., J. V .da Graca, V. Ancona & M. Kunta. 2019. Recent outbreaks of citrus canker in Texas, surveys and eradication efforts. 73rd annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
5. Guzman, E., J.-W. Park, E. S. Louzada & M. Kunta. 2019. Exploration of prophages in Candidatus L. asiaticus strains in Texas. 73rd annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
6. Boyapati, V. N., E. S. Louzada, M. Kunta, J. V. da Graca & C. Simpson. 2019. Testing drought tolerance in Carrizo citrus through elevated expression of RhNAC2 and RhEXPA4 genes from rose plant. 73rd annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
7. Galan, R. L., T. P. Feria Arroyo, M. Kunta & M. Setamou. 2019. Impact of bactericidal spray on *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus acquisition and transmission by the Asian citrus psyllid, *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Liviidae). 73rd annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, Weslaco, TX.
8. Chavez, S., M. Kunta, and E. Louzada. 2017. Screening for *Phytophthora nicotianae* resistance of different citrus rootstocks and hybrids. 71st annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 3, Weslaco, TX.
9. Vazquez, O., M. Kunta, and E. Louzada. 2016. Establishment and validation of a method for quantitifaction of viable *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus bacteria in citrus leaves. 70th annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 5, Weslaco, TX.
10. Park, J-W., J. Brockington, O. Vazquez, E. S. Louzada, J. V. da Graca, and M. Kunta. 2016. Evaluation of root tissue as a source material for Huanglongbing (HLB) diagnosis in Citrus. 70th annual meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 5, Weslaco, TX.
11. Lott, C., Z. Viloria, D. Henne, M. Kunta, and E.S. Louzada. 2014. Genetic transformation of Micro-Tom tomato with a citrus calcium signal modifier gene (CSM-1) targeting resistance to Ca. L. solanacearum. 68th Annual Meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 21, Weslaco, TX.
12. Chaudhary, S., J. C. Melgar, M. Setamou, and M. Kunta. 2014. Phytophthora propagules count may go down in the rhizosphere of citrus trees grown on raised beds. 68th Annual Meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 21, Weslaco, TX.
13. Thinakaran, J., E. Pierson, M. Kunta, and D. Henne. 2014. Silverleaf nightshade, Solanum elaeagnifolium, a possible reservoir host of the bacterial pathogen, '*Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum' in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. 68th Annual Meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 21, Weslaco, TX.
14. Vazquez, O., S. Chavez, M. Kunta, and E. S. Louzada. 2014. Development of efficient and early *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus detection methods in citrus. 68thAnnual Meeting of the Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society, February 21, Weslaco, TX.
15. Chaudhary, S., J. C. Melgar, M. Setamou, and M. Kunta. 2014. Growing citrus on raised beds may lead to reduced *Phytophthora* propagules in the soil. Vegetable & Fruit Improvement Center Conference and 20th Anniversary, February 25-26, Weslaco, TX.
16. da Graça, J. V., M. Kunta, E. Braswell, W. Li, and M. Nakhla. 2013. First detection of *Ca*. Liberibacter americanus (Lam) in Asian citrus psyllid in Texas. Texas Citrus Showcase, Weslaco, TX, April 4.
17. Parra C. C., M. Kunta, J. V. da Graça, and E. S. Louzada. 2013. Full transcriptome analysis of huanglongbing (HLB)-infected 'Valencia' sweet orange (Citrus sinensis). 67th Subtropical Plant Science Society Annual Meeting, February 15, Weslaco, TX.
18. Ruiz A., G. Ontiveros, C. C. Parra, B. Salas, J. V. da Graça, and M. Kunta. 2013. 67th Subtropical Plant Science Society Annual Meeting, February 15, Weslaco, TX.

19. Kunta, M., C. de la Garza, J. V. da Graça, M. Sétamou, and E. S. Louzada. 2013. Potential use of citrus roots as a valuable diagnostic tissue samples for reliable detection of HLB. 67th Subtropical Plant Science Society Annual Meeting, February 15, Weslaco, TX.
20. Parra, C. C., M. Kunta, and E. S. Louzada. 2012. Effect of Huanglongbing (HLB) infection in gene expression of sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*). Project Directors Conference at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX, May 30.
21. Garcia, A., E. S. Louzada, and M. Kunta. 2012. Molecular characterization of calcium signal modifier gene (CSM-1) transgenic sweet orange cultivars and evaluation for tolerance to P. nicotianae and Citrus canker. USDA-HSI 2012 Project Directors Conference at the University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX, May 30.
22. Tanner, J., M. Kunta, J.V. da Graça, M. Skaria, S. D. Nelson. 2010. A study on Citrus tatter leaf virus seed Transmission. Subtropical plant science society annual meeting, Weslaco, TX, January 25. Poster won Second Prize.
23. Salas, B., A. Loya, M. Kunta, J.V. da Graça, and V. Medina. Isolation of *Elsinoë australis* from citrus fruits from the Lower Rio Grande Valley-TX. Subtropical Biology Conference, Edinburg, TX, 13 January.
24. Singh, K., T. Rickman, J.-W. Park, E. Burchard, C. Dardick, M. Kunta, M. Staton, M. Roose, C. Ramadugu. 2021. Draft de novo genome assemblies of three Australian limes. California Citrus Conference, Visalia, CA, October 6.
25. Galan, R. L., P. R. Gudipelly, J. Gadiwan, E. M. Lopez, R. Uckoo, T. Feria, M. Sétamou and M. Kunta. 2021. Tracking HLB disease in South Texas: before and after February 2021 freeze. California Citrus Conference, Visalia, CA, October 6.
26. Park, J.-W., K. Singh, T. Rickman, E. Burchard, C. Dardick, M. Staton, M. Roose, C. Ramadugu, and M. Kunta. Transcriptome analysis of F1 hybrids derived from a cross between a mandarin and an Australian lime. California Citrus Conference, Visalia, CA, October 6.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITES

Funded Grants

1. PI, $89,500. Investigation into the active inoculum sources and other factors contributing to the canker infections of new growth in citrus trees. Texas Department of Agriculture, 2021.
2. PI at TAMUK, $4,670,000 (Kunta-$333,778). Evaluation and validation of novel, huanglongbing resistant/tolerant citrus hybrid scion cultivars, USDA NIFA ECDRE CAP, 2020.
3. PI at TAMUK, $4,759,531(Kunta-$352,338). Providing practical solutions for HLB treatment and prevention, USDA NIFA ECDRE CAP, 2020.
4. PI, $200,521, Microbial control of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus, Farm Bill, 2020.
5. PI, $22,500, Validating HLB detection in ACP using RNR assay. USDA APHIS cooperative agreement, 2020.
6. PI, $57,467, Studies on the effectiveness of peraclean®5, electrolyzed water, and electro-biocide on the viability of *Elsinoë australis*, the causal agent of sweet orange scab (SOS) disease. USDA APHIS cooperative agreement, 2020.
7. Co-PI, $433,860, Enhancing productivity of HLB-endemic orchards via improved soil health, HLB-MAC, 2020.
8. Co-PI, $120,000, (Kunta-$30,000), TCPB, Sustainable support for core research programs at TAMUK Citrus Center (2020-21), 2020.
9. PI at TAMUK, $3,600,000 (Kunta- $300,000), USDA NIFA CDRE, Development of huanglongbing resistant/tolerant citrus through genomic approaches, 2019.
10. PI at TAMUK, $349,996 (Kunta-$130,446), HLB MAC, Field deployable leaf sensor for rapid, asymptomatic screening of HLB, 2019.
11. Co-PI, $129,008 (Kunta-$30,000), TCPB, Sustainable support for core research programs at TAMUK Citrus Center (2019-20), 2019.

12. Co-PI, $536,840, USDA APHIS, Citrus commodity pest survey, 2019.
13. PI, $90,953, USDA APHIS, Development of improved methods to detect Ca. Liberibacter asiaticus from citrus root tissues, 2018.
14. Co-PI, $169,107, USDA APHIS/TCPDMC, Amplified multi-pest citrus commodity survey, 2018.
15. co-PI, $155,911 (Kunta-$13,200), USDA APHIS, Strengthening ACP control through evaluation of biological control through evaluation of resident predators using biological control & mol. Techniques to ID promising candidates for augmentative releases, 2018.
16. Co-PI, $536,840, USDA APHIS, Citrus commodity pest survey, 2018.
17. Co-PI, $148,500 (Kunta-$74,250), Citrus Research Board (CRB), Improved early detection of CLas infections in citrus, 2017.
18. Co-PI, $113,000 (Kunta - $56,500), Citrus Research Board (CRB), Improving Early Detection of HLB via ACP Nymph/Citrus Flush Sampling, 2016.
19. PI, $6,000, Texas Citrus Producers Board (TCPB), Screening citrus rootstock and scion, and transgenic plants for Huanglongbing tolerance/resistance, 2016.
20. Co-PI, $230,892 (Kunta-$28,000), CRB, Testing of early HLB detection protocols using TX samples along with several labs in California, 2016.
21. Co-PI, $34,770 (No funds for Kunta), USDA APHIS, Determination of the strain identity of three recent TX citrus canker isolates, 2016.
22. PI, $744,675, USDA APHIS PPQ MAC, Validation of early detection method and development of high throughput diagnosis of HLB using root samples, 2015.
23. Co-PI, $39,848, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST Cooperative agreement, Chemical control of sweet orange scab (SOS) caused by *Elsinoe australis* on citrus fruits, 2015.
24. Co-PI, $1,683,429 (Kunta- $78,923), USDA NIFA, Characterization of Liberibacter populations and development of field detection system for citrus huanglongbing, 2015.
25. Co-PI, $254,618 (Kunta- $23,039), CRB, Testing of early HLB detection protocols using Texas samples, 2015.
26. Cooperator, $95,510, CRB, Development of consumer-friendly transgenic citrus plants with potential broad spectrum resistance to HLB, Citrus Canker, Phytophthora, and other exotic diseases, 2013.
27. Co-PI, $62,000, USDA APHIS PPQ, Evaluating citrus root tissue as a target for early and efficient HLB detection, 2013.
28. Co-PI, $5,000, TCPB, Evaluation of conventional and quantitative PCR for detection of HLB in composite plant DNA samples, 2013.
29. Co-PI, $9,500, TAMUK, Visualization of cytosolic Ca2+ distribution in plant cells of transgenic and non-transgenic plants, 2012.
30. Co-PI, $32,500, USDA APHIS, Studies on sweet orange scab (SOS) caused by *Elsinoe australis*, 2012.
31. Co-PI, $5,000, (TCPB), Avoiding false positives in HLB PCR tests and studies on infection-induced protein changes, 2009.

Proposals Submitted but Pending Decision

1. PI at TAMUK, $838,600 (Kunta-$194,474), USDA. Mass Psyllid Collection (MPC) trap for psyllid population monitoring and early detection of Huanglongbing (HLB), 2021.

Proposals Submitted but Not Funded

1. PI, $35,766, CRDF, pre-proposal was invited for full proposal submission. Identifying key proteins mediating the interactions of Ca. Liberibacter with their host plants as well as vector insect ACP in the U.S, 2009.
2. Co-PI, $496,755, USDA-AFRI, Comparative transcriptomic, proteomic, and metabolomic analysis of compatible and incompatible plant-pathogen interaction, 2011.
3. Co-PI, $120,000, CRDF, Identification of proteins that signal the onset of flushing to develop sensors for efficient management of Asian Citrus Psyllids in citrus orchards, 2012.
4. Co-PI, $120,000, CRDF, Potential for early HLB detection using transcriptome analysis, 2012.

5. Co-PI, $299,354, USDA-NIFA-Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants Program, Inspiring students in STEM careers through university science fair, 2013.
6. PI, $362,688, USDA- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Field screening of transgenic citrus plants for HLB, Citrus canker, and Phytophthora diseases and understanding the disease resistance mechanisms, 2013.
7. PI, $39,562, Texas Citrus Producers Board, Efficacy of using root sample for an efficient and early detection of HLB and verification of possible HLB root transmission, 2013.
8. Co-PI, $10,216, Texas Citrus Producers Board, Using biochemicals for improving Citrus production under water deficit conditions, 2013.
9. Co-PI, $53,138, USDA Specialty Crop Farm Bill, A study to solve the "inconclusive" PCR test results in *Diaphorina citri* for the presence of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus, a causal agent of Huanglongbing/Citrus greening, 2013.
10. Cooperator, $406,454, Citrus Research Board, Development of consumer – friendly transgenic citrus plants with potential broad spectrum resistance to HLB, Citrus Canker, Phytophthora, and other exotic diseases, 2013.
11. Co-PI, $362,351, HLB-MAC, Evaluation of the effect of Chitosan on the establishment of citrus plant in nursery and field, in the prevention of fruit drop in mature trees, and as an antimicrobial agent, 2014.
12. Co-PI, $10 M, USDA-NIFA, A systems approach to HLB mitigation through production solutions, producer education, and consumer outreach, 2014.
13. PI, $250,000, CRB, Enhancing natural antibiotic production in soils and citrus roots to mitigate the effects of HLB, 2015.
14. Co-PI, $88,964, CRB, Population Dynamic of Liberibacter asiaticus (Las) in infected citrus under field & controlled conditions, 2015.
15. Co-PI, $452,200, USDA Specialty Crop Research Program, Direct Electrochemical Oxidative Stress for Treatment of HLB, 2015.
16. Co-PI, $4.6M, USDA NIFA, Development of Consumer-Friendly, HLB-Resistant Citrus Utilizing Only Plant-derived or Citrus-derived Genetic Constructs, 2015.
17. Co-PI, $467,849, CDFA, Field evaluation of Huanglongbing early detection methods, 2015.
18. PI, $6,000, TCPB, Screening citrus rootstock and scion, and transgenic plants for Huanglongbing tolerance/resistance, 2015.
19. Co PI, $27,000, TCPB, Development of Phytophthora-resistant sour orange and sour orange-like rootstocks for Texas growers, 2015.
20. Cooperator, $3,861,180, USDA NIFA, Imparting huanglongbing resistance to citrus from Australian citrus relatives through breeding and therapeutic treatments, 2016.
21. PI, $171,295, USDA APHIS PPQ, Establishment of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asisticus early detection by comparison of four different real time PCR systems, 2016.
22. Cooperator, $274,949, USDA NIFA HSI, Bridging students from a 2-year college to a 4-year University and retention through internships, 2016.
23. Co-PI, $17,545, TCPB, Production of *Phytopthora*-resistant sour orange rootstock plants for Texas growers, 2016.
24. PI, $49,873, CRB, Enhancing natural antibiotic production in soils and citrus roots to mitigate the effects of HLB, 2016.
25. PI, $15,000, Survey to determine the prophage types in Candidatus Liberibacter asisticus strains from Asian citrus psyllids and citrus trees in Texas, 2016.
26. Co-PI, $1,500,000, USDA NIFA SREP, Detection of Huanglongbing in pre-symptomatic trees by testing roots and monitoring Liberibacter acquisition in psyllids, 2017.
27. PI, $150,000, CRB, Monitoring of live Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas) populations in relation to psyllid bacterial acquisition potential: Consequences for effective vector management, 2017.
28. Co-PI, $4,995,997, USDA NIFA CDRE, Systems biology to elucidate the CLas-citrus-psyllid interactions needed to culture, inhibit, and detect CLas for Successful HLB Management, 2017.

29. PI, $15,000, TAMUK University Research Award, Production of consumer-friendly transgenic citrus plants with enhanced tolerance to the pathogens, 2017.
30. Co-PI, $500,000, USDA APHIS PPQ MAC, A novel therapy for CLas suppression and HLB mitigation via exploitation of select citrus phloem sap amino acids systems, 2017.
31. PI, $99,645, USDA NIFA WAMS, Empowering women and minorities in agriculture and STEM disciplines by providing opportunities for research and leadership skills development, 2018.
32. PI, $365,430, USDA HLBMAC, Microbial control of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus, 2018.
33. PI, $206,066, TDA specialty block grant program, Screening to select citrus rootstocks that confer tolerance to citrus, 2018.
34. Co-PI, $5,000, USDA APHIS, HLB MAC travel funds request: Transgenic-HLB interstate movement, 2018.
35. Co-PI, $85,000, Collapse of citrus on trifoliate and hybrid rootstocks in California and on sour orange rootstock in Texas – Citrus Research Board (CRB), 2019.
36. Co-PI, $400,000, Systematic study to evaluate reliable sink tissue and seasonality for consistent detection of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' (CLas) by qPCR – HLB MAC, 2019.
37. Co-PI, $1,028,000, Providing Research Experiential Learning Opportunities in Animal and Biological Sciences (PREPLABS), 2019.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND ACTIVITES

Reviewer & Editorial activities

1. Reviewer for 24 scientific journals
2. Managing Editor – Subtropical Agriculture and Environments
3. Editor – aBIOTECH (Springer)
4. Senior Editor, Journal of Plant Disease Sciences

Elected Professional Society Positions

1. President, 2018-19, Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society
2. Treasurer, 2020-Present, Subtropical Agriculture and Environments Society

Invited Talks/Scientific committee assignment

1. Exotic, emerging, and prevalent citrus diseases of economic importance in South Texas at UT RGV. Seminar series for scientists in the field of agriculture through a USDA funded program: Experiential Learning Program at Two Hispanic Serving Institutions on Water for Agriculture, Food Safety and Childhood Obesity & Prevention, 2019.
2. 'The role of Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in safeguarding Texas citrus industry', ICAR Winter School, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, India, Nov 2018).
3. Early detection of citrus Huanglongbing in Texas and potential expanded disease detection & management strategies in collaboration with the ICAR-National Research Center, 14th International *Trichoderma* and *Gliocladium* Workshop, Nagpur, India, November 27-30, 2016. Received an award for the best lecture.
4. Selected faculty member to participate in the faculty fellowship summer institute in Israel program along with 14 other faculty members from different universities in the USA, May 28-June 8, 2016.
5. Sweet Orange Scab and Citrus Greening', TAMU, College Station, May 3, 2012.

Membership in Professional Societies

1. Member of the American Phytopathological Society (APS)
2. Member of the Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee, APS
3. Member of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists (IOCV)
4. Member in Sweet Orange Scab Diagnostic and Research Technical Working Group
5. Member of the HLB Early Detection Working Group/EDT Task Force
6. Member of the Citrus Black Spot Technical Working Group

Professional Training

1. Citrus leprosis, sweet orange scab, and citrus black spot workshop, March 12-15, 2012, USDA-APHIS-CPHST, Beltsville, MD
2. Bioinformatics Workshop, March 28-30, 2011, USDA-APHIS-CPHST, Beltsville, MD
3. HLB qPCR diagnostics workshop, 2007 and 2010. Received National Plant Protection Laboratory Accreditation Program (NPPLAP) certified diagnostician status to perform HLB molecular diagnostic tests
4. 2017 PlantSEED Metabolic Modeling Workshop at UFL, Gainesville, FL
5. Distance Education Certification - Summer 2020 Professional service activities

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Member of Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), 2019-Present
2. Member of College AGNR Recruitment and Retention Taskforce Committee AY22
3. Judge for 10th and13th Javelina Annual Research Symposiums
4. Editor – Citrus Center Highlights magazine
5. Student training and recruitment

HONORS AND AWARDS

1. Faculty research award for two years, TAMUK, 2017, 2020
2. Employee of the Year 2008, TAMUK, 2009
3. Young Citrus Phytopathologist, 18th International Organization of Citrus Virologists, São Paulo, Brazil, 2010
4. Jimmie and Barbara Steidinger graduate scholarship, TAMUK, 2009
5. Pathways to Doctorate Fellowship, TAMU, 2004
6. Red Grapefruit License Plate Scholarship, TAMUK, 2002-2003
7. Outstanding PLSS Graduate Student Award, TAMUK, 2002-2003

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Graduate Student Advisement

I. Co-Chair/Chair of Research Program-Full mentor

1. Marissa Gonzalez
   Thesis title: TBD
2. Jennifer Belcher
   Thesis title: TBD
3. Kimberly Timmons
   Thesis title: TBD
4. Jaffer Gadiwan
   Project title: TBD
5. Franco Guerra
   Project title: TBD

II. Committee Member

Current M.S. students

1. Yovanna Soto
   Thesis title: Effects of citrus tree phenology on color morphology and *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus acquisition potential of *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama (Hemiptera: Liviidae)
2. Cecilia Segura
   Thesis title: TBD
3. Olivia Segura
   Thesis title: TBD

4. Steven Michael Ramírez

Graduated M.S. students

1. Justin D. Tanner (2010)* - Outstanding graduate student awardee (2009-2010)
   Thesis title: Seed transmission of Citrus tatter leaf virus.
2. Cynthia C. Parra (2012)* - Outstanding graduate student awardee (2011-2012)
   Thesis title: Effect of Huanglongbing infection on gene expression in sweet orange.
3. Aditi Satpute (2012)* – Outstanding graduate student awardee (2010-2011)
   Thesis title: Biological and biochemical characterization of a new pathogen of citrus, *Elsinoe australis*, causal agent of sweet orange scab in Texas.
4. Amanda Garcia (2012)
   Thesis title: Over expression of calcium signal modifier gene (CSM-1) in sweet orange cultivars and molecular characterization of transgenic plants.
5. Yadira B. Zapata (2012)*
   Thesis title: Determining the pathogenicity of *Elsinoe australis* on different citrus cultivars and efficacy of organic packinghouse treatments on the viability of E. australis.
6. Carolina da La Garza (2013)*
   Thesis title: Testing for *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus in leaf and root tissue of citrus and orange jasmine.
7. Cecilia Lott (2014) – Outstanding graduate student awardee (2012-2013)
   Thesis title: Genetic transformation of Micro-Tom tomato with a calcium signal modifying gene and analysis of transgenic plants challenged with Ca. L. solanacearum.
8. Omar Vazquez (2015)*
   Thesis title: Studies on the quantitative distribution of Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus in the roots and canopy of Huanglongbing-infected citrus trees.
9. Pallavi Vedasharan (2016)*
   Thesis title: Estimation of viable Candidatus L. asiaticus in grapefruit leaves with symptoms and developmental stages.
10. Jaime Alejandro (2017)
    Non-thesis option, Coursework
11. Naga Rajitha Kavuri (2019)
    Thesis title: Optimization of recombinase mediated marker excision in citrus protoplasts.
12. Venkata B. Kunduru (2019)
    Non-thesis option, Coursework
13. Emma Perez (2019)*
    Plan II Grad Project: Citrus canker in Texas and its current situation.
14. Venkata Boyapati (2019). I served as a Co-Chair.
    Thesis title: Over expression of RhNAC2 and RhEXPA4 genes in Carrizo citrange to develop potential drought tolerance
15. Estephanie B. Jimenez (2019)
    Plan II Grad Project: Development of recombinase technology to produce consumer-friendly transgenic citrus plants.
16. Cecilia Villegas(2020)
    Thesis title: Development of a technique for reliable recovery of testable Asian citrus psyllid from field deployed sticky cards.
17. Victoria de Leon* - Outstanding graduate student awardee (2019-2020). I served as a Co-Chair.
    Thesis title: Investigation of 'Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus' prophages in Texas and Florida.
18. Pramod Reddy Gudipelly*(2021)
    Thesis title: Field deployable sensor for rapid, asymptomatic screening of HLB in citrus.
19. Tirumalareddy Danda* (2021)
    Thesis title: Field deployable loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay for the detection of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' in citrus.

20. Sonia Munoz (2021)
    Project title: Assessment of Post Freeze Arthropod Population in Texas Citrus.

*Chair or Co-Chair/Supervised/mentored the entire research of the thesis project.

Graduated PhD Student (Cooperative PhD program TAMU-K and TAMU)

1. Shima Chaudhary (2018)
   Dissertation title: Incidence, distribution, and epidemiology of Phytophthora diseases of citrus in South Texas and their interaction with Huanglongbing.