

## PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

### Leadership Role in Professional Societies

#### **American Society for Horticultural Science**

- Chair- Colloquia-Role of Horticulture in interdisciplinary Centers related to Foods for Health (2005)
- Fellow, American Society for Horticultural Sciences-2009
- Chair- Produce, Quality, Safety and Health Properties (QUAL)-2004-06.
- Chair-Tropical Horticulture (TROP) working Group (2001-02; 2005-06; 2008-2011)
- Chair-International Topics of Concern (ITCH) working group-1999-00
- Founding Chair- Association of Horticulturists of Indian Origin (AHIO)-2005-07

#### **International Society for Horticultural Science**

- Chair, Division-Horticulture for Human Health (2018-current).
- Chair, Section Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (2014-2018).
- Vice Chair, Commission Fruits and Vegetables and Health (2011-2014)
- International Advisory Scientific Committee member- First workshop "Networking the FAV and Health Networks"-28<sup>th</sup> ISHS Congress, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Chair- Citrus Biochemistry Session- 11<sup>th</sup> International Citrus Congress, October 2008, Wuhan, China.
- Chair- Symposium on "Human Health Benefits of Citrus"- IX International Citrus Congress-2000, Orlando, FL.
- *FAV symposium series*. Co-founded an international symposium on Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables (FAV Health) in 2005. As a Chair of the second international symposium on FAV Health 2007, which was hosted by the VFIC in Houston and sponsored by the ASHS and ISHS. FAV Health continues to succeed; symposia were held in 2009 (France), 2013 (India), 2014 (Australia) and 2018 (Turkey), 2020 (Germany).

#### **American Chemical Society- Division of Agriculture and Food Chemistry**

- Fellow, American Chemical Society, Division of Ag Food Chemistry
- Program Chair-2006- Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry (2,700 members) of the American Chemical Society (14,000 members).
- Chair-2007-Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry (2,700 members) of the American Chemical Society (14,000 members).
- Nomination Committee Chair- 2008. Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.
- Co-Chair: International symposium on "Pre-and postharvest and processing effect on bioactive health maintaining properties" as a part of the AGFD division of the ACS-2008
- Co-chair: International Symposium on "Agricultural and Food Derived Natural Products for Preventing and Combating Disease" as a part of the AGFD division of the American Chemical Society- 38 speakers-2010
- Chair-International symposium on "Potential Health Benefits of Citrus" as a part of the AGFD division of the American Chemical Society-August 22-24, 2004, Philadelphia, PA.

#### *International Society for Nutraceutical and Functional Conference*

Chair/Co-Chair- Sessions, Annual International Society for Nutraceutical and Functional Conference, San Francisco (2009), Anaheim (2006), Anaheim (2005), San Francisco (2004), Los Vegas (2003), San Diego (2002), and Portland (2001).

*Other International Professional Society Leadership Activities*

1. Project Director and Convener- Workshop on curriculum development for developing a course "The Nexus of Food & Nutritional Security, Sustainability and Hunger"-April 30-May 1, 2015, College Station, TX.
2. Project Director and Convener- Workshop on curriculum development for developing a course "The Science of Foods for Health"-June 26-27, 2007, College Station, TX.
3. Chair and lead speaker- Pre-and Post harvest physiology of fruits and flowers symposium- International Conference on Plant Physiology. New Delhi, India, 2003.
4. Chair and Lead Speaker: Tree Physiology Group- National Seminar on Role of Plant Physiology for Sustaining Quality and Quantity of Food Production in Relation to Environment. December 7, 2001, Dharwad, India.
5. Co-Chair for poster session and presented a paper in the International Symposium on Importance of Potassium in Nutrient Management for Sustainable Crop Production. December 3-5, 2001, New Delhi, India.
6. TAMU coordinator-new US-India Knowledge Based Initiative on Agricultural Research and education

*Regional Professional Society*

7. Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society (: Fruit Section Director-2003-04; Vice President Fruit Section-2004-05; **President- 2006-07.**

*Membership in Professional Societies*

- Member-International Society for Horticultural Sciences
- Member-International Society for Citriculture.
- Member-American Chemical Society- Division of Agril and Food Chemistry
- Member, American Council of Medically Active Plants
- Member, American Association for Advancement of Sciences
- Member, International Advisory Board, Fifth International Symposium, Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables (FAVHealth2012), Dharwad, India, January 7-11, 2013.
- International Advisory Member- ISHS-Third International Symposium on Underutilized Plant Species-Exploration and Conservation for Future Generation- Madurai, India, August 2016.
- Member, International Scientific Advisory Board, Emerging Health Issues in Fruits and Vegetables (XXVIII International Horticultural Congress - IHC2010), August 22-27, 2010. Lisbon, Portugal.
- Member, International Advisory Board, International Society for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods, San Francisco, November 3-5, 2009.
- Member, International Advisory Board, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium, Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables (FAVHealth2009- <http://favhealth2009.com>), Avignon, France, October 18-21, 2009.
- Member, International Organizing Committee- Second International Symposium on Translational Research: Natural Products and Cancer-Lonavala, India, December 7-9, 2007. Society for Translational Cancer Research.
- Member-International Advisory Committee-International Conference on Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals since 2002. Conference is arranged every year since 2000-2006.
- Member International Advisory Committee- Second International Congress on Plant Physiology- New Delhi, India-January 8-12, 2003.
- American Society for Horticultural Sciences

Working Group Member- Produce Quality, Safety, and Health Properties,  
Citrus, Food Quality, Postharvest and Teaching  
Fruit Publication Award Committee  
Nomination Committee Member  
Member- International Advisory Council

- Member of Southern American Society for Horticultural Sciences
- Member- Organization committee: National Seminar on Role of Plant Physiology for Sustaining Quality and Quantity of Food Production in Relation to Environment. December 3-5, 2001, Dharwad, India.
- Life Member- Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society

### **Reviewer of Journal Articles/Research Grants/Book Chapters/Dissertation**

Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry-2001-present; Food Chemistry-2006-present; Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture 2002-present; Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry-2006; Phytochemical Analysis-2005; Journal of American Society for Horticultural Sciences 1997-present; ; Life Sciences-2003; Nutrition Journal 2002-03; Indian National Science Academy-2002-2003; Journal Lebensmittel-Wissenschaft und-Technologie-LWT2003; Journal of Experiment Botany-2003; Separation and Purification Technology Science-2004; Hort Technology 1997-2002; HortScience Journal-1997-2007; Plant Breeding Reviews-2001; Subtropical Plant Science Journal-1998.

Book chapter- American Chemical Society-1999; Book Review: Medicinal Plant of Asian Origin and Culture, CPL Press, UK.-2004 Expert reviewer for Sunkist Citrus Nutrition Platform-2003.

USDA-NRI competitive grants proposals-1999-2007; Internal reviewer for the article from the USDA scientists-1997-2001. USDA-CSREES as Adhock Reviewer- USDA-ARS NP306 Quality- April 2010, August 2010, August 2011.

External examiner/opponent-Ph.D. student- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden-January 2007; External evaluator for Ph.D. dissertation from University of Mysore, India-2000.

## SERVICE OUTREACH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

*Contribution to the University, State, Nation in the Area of Economic Welfare or Cultural Growth*

### **Advisory Board:**

Florida Department of Citrus Health and Wellness Advisory-2011  
United Fresh Council Member-Food Safety and Technology  
Texas Vegetable Association: 2010- 2015  
Texas International Produce Association- Education committee- since 2014.  
Tropicana Nutrition Advisory: 2008-2010  
Sunkist Nutrition Group-Advisory 2009

### **Membership on University, College, and/or Department Committees**

- Member, TAMU President's Council on Diversity and Climate, 2017-present
- **Elected President-** Friends of India Network, Office of Diversity, TAMU, 2014-present.
- **Elected member,** Council of Principal Investigator, TAMU, 2011-2014
- Member, Council of Built Environment, TAMU, 2012-2014.
- Member, Strategic Plan, Texas Vegetable Program, Texas A&M AgriLife -2013-present.
- Member, SWOT Analysis on Fruits and Vegetables-Texas A&M AgriLife-2012-2013.
- Member, Improving of our Health- Grand Challenges of TAMU AgriLife 2012-current
- Member, Blue Bell Seminar Committee-Texas A&M AgriLife-2012.
- **Chair-**Selection committee, Vegetable molecular breeding, TAMU, 2006-2008.
- Member- Vice Chancellor's Agriculture Faculty Advisory Committee, 2007-2008.
- Member-Food Chemistry position-Dept. of Nutrition and Food Science-2005-2006.
- Member-Chair, Dept. of Agronomy and Resource Sciences position at TAMUK.
- Member- Lower Grande Valley Nutritional Initiative.
- Member-Selection Committee for hiring faculty in Dept. of Human Nutrition, TAMUK.
- Member- Curriculum Committee, College of Agri. and Human Science- 2002-2003.
- Member-Awards Committee, Dept. of Agronomy and Resource Science-2000-02.
- Member-TAMUK Faculty Senate Committee, 2000-2005.
- Member-Faculty Senate Educational Technology Committee, S-15 (1999-2003).
- Member-Faculty Senate Handbook Review Committee, S-11 (1999-2003).
- Member- Texas A&M University-Kingsville New Citrus Center building.
- Member-Scientific Advisory Committee- VFIC, TAMU 2000-2003.
- Member- Organizing Committee, National Seminar on Role of Plant Phys. for Sustaining Quality and Quantity of Food Production in Relation to Environment-2001, India.
- Member-Curriculum Committee, Dept. of Agronomy and Resource Sci. 2000-01.
- Member-Seminar Committee, Dept. of Agronomy and Resource Science-1999-00.
- Member-Selection committee, Citrus Horticulturist /Breeder position at the TAMUK
- Member- Nutrition and Dietetics, Coastal Bend and Education Center, TAMUHSC.
- Mentor, Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Upward Bound Math/Science.
- Member "Coastal Bend Health Education Center". Lead person: Dr. Anna McArthur,
- Member-Selection Committee for hiring Deputy Center Director, Weslaco Center.

*Major leadership role as head of the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center*

During last 16 years, I have been fortunate to work with dedicated interdisciplinary faculty, staff and students at the VFIC. I take great pride in the many achievements we have realized during my tenure as Associate Director (2002-2004) and Director (2005-to-date). A few relevant highlights of my accomplishments are listed below.

- In 2017, National Center of Excellence for Melons was approved by the USDA as a part of the SCRI-CAPS Grant due to historic success of leveraging of resources, strong partnership with external stakeholders, first of a kind multi-state courses and transdisciplinary scientists working together to address producer's issues through consumer to farm approach.
- Collaborated with VFIC faculty, staff and students to develop and implement new strategic plans to increase VFIC resources, the numbers and diversity of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty, and to increase programmatic relevance and excellence.
- Enhanced communication between Department Head, VFIC Director and AgriLife administrators and other scholarly entities associated with the VFIC.
- Created an advancement and development plan that enabled a commitment of \$1.8 million in foundation funds.
- Initiated the offering of endowment scholarships. For one of the scholarships, our goal is to raise \$750,000 to support graduate students and to date \$280,000 has been collected in 4 years. Enabled steady growth of another endowment.
- Effectively managed and responded to federal and state budget cuts in 2011, while at the same time securing operational funds from the state to sustain the VFIC.
- Facilitated submission by VFIC faculty of approximately **\$91 million** in proposals for funding, which resulted in **\$13.1 million** in external grants.
- Served as a member of the Texas Vegetable Association Board
- United Fresh Council Member-Food Safety and Technology (2015 to current).
- Hosted 8 congressional members/staffers, 117 industry, 134 academicians, 183 consumers and 375 students.
- Responsible for conducting VFIC Industry Advisory meetings and implementing suggestions.
- The number of peer-reviewed publications by VFIC scientists during my tenure as Director has been exceptional, with 310 peer-reviewed publications, 9 books, 28 editor-reviewed publications and 84 invited presentations.
- Supervisor- Two Research Professors, Administrative coordinator, five staff members
- *Enabled providing support to VFIC faculty for 43 students in research and training. Thanks to dedicated supervision by VFIC faculty, 40 graduate students completed degrees and 25 undergraduate students were trained. Of these students, ~95% are employed.*

*Industry membership.* Our research activities related to citrus bioactive compounds and prevention of specific diseases, such as osteoporosis and cancer, stimulated 15 new industry members to join the VFIC. Also, the research efforts of several VFIC scientists led to General Mills, Lark Seeds and Texas Pecan Growers Association joining the VFIC.

*New VFIC industry members since 2005-2016:* United Fresh (Washington, D.C.), Sunkist, Inc. (California), General Mills (Minnesota), Campbell Soup Inc. (New Jersey), Minute Maid-Coca Cola (Georgia) Tropicana Juice-Pepsi Inc., (Illinois), Advanced Orthomolecular Research (Canada), TexaSWEET Inc. (Texas), KGK Synergize (Canada), Texas Citrus Exchange (Texas), Texas Pecan Growers Association, (Texas), Lark Seeds (California), Bagley Produce (Texas), Dalena Farms (California),

*Center Review.* In 2005, the TAMU Board of Regents initiated a review of all Centers/Institutes. With the help of staff and VFIC faculty members, a comprehensive report of VFIC accomplishments was submitted in 2005, 2011, 2014 and 2017. These reviews helped me to establish and refine the guidelines and policies that helped me to be an accountable and responsible leader of the VFIC. I am grateful to the TAMU AgriLife Central administration, who were able to meet several of the VFIC needs after a follow-up correspondence with the appropriate administrators.

*Established and implemented new guidelines for VFIC Membership* to increase operational efficiency.

- Developed guidelines for VFIC scientific membership and received approval from the Vice Chancellor's cabinet.
- The guidelines were approved by the respective scientists and their immediate supervisors such as Department Heads and Directors of Texas AgriLife Centers or the equivalent supervisors from each scientist's institution.
- A total of 26 scientific members from several departments, off-campus centers of the TAMU system and other institutions in Texas and other states joined the VFIC.

*Initiated a new research direction at the VFIC.* Historically, the VFIC worked on breeding of vegetables and certain fruits. This ongoing approach has been highly successful and yielded multiple new crop introductions. During 2005, in addition to the conventional breeding work, we initiated several new and cutting-edge collaborative research projects, related to processing and pre-and postharvest effects on bioactive compounds. Additionally, the research focus expanded to include isolation and characterization of bioactive compounds to determine their potential benefits for human health. Further testing of these bioactive compounds is being conducted in cell and animal studies, and recently even human intervention studies, to understand their mechanisms of action. Specialty crops are also under investigation to understand their health-maintaining properties. By expanding our focus to include examination of human health benefits, this new research direction has synergistically supported traditional breeding efforts, yielding a stronger, diverse research program.

- *VFIC Core Units:* To achieve the goal of facilitating emerging research on foods for health and provide access to all members, four VFIC Core Units were established: 1) Isolation and Characterization Core Unit, 2) Analytical Core Unit, 3) Biotechnology Core Unit, and 4) Human Cell Culture Core Unit. Each core unit is assigned a leader who is responsible for the operation of the unit. Guidelines for operations and user agreements

were established for each core unit. Policies for the use of resources in each core unit are being implemented.

- *VFIC's Greenhouse-Developed user guidelines and allocated 9 greenhouses according to the guidelines and research needs.*
- *External Scientific Advisory Committee.* VFIC has very strong industry support and continues to grow; however, it did not have a scientific advisory board. In 2005, a seven member external scientific advisory board was formed; this committee helps the Director in determining the future direction of the VFIC.
- Developed three first-of-kind multi-disciplinary and multi-state courses. This was achieved by conducting curriculum workshops in collaboration with three land grant universities and was funded by five federal grants, a total of \$1.7 million. It also provided an opportunity for student experiential learning and faculty enhancement for multi-disciplinary teaching.

#### *Organized and Initiated VFIC-related conferences and symposia*

Initiated hosting VFIC biennial conference in conjunction with Texas Producers Association Conference.

2014- VFIC 20th anniversary conference "**Produce for Health: The Intersection of Sustainability, Food and Nutrition security and Education.** 180 participants including US produce and allied industry members.

2009 Biennial conference: The conference theme was "**Consumers to Farm: Changing Patterns in the Fruit and Vegetable Industry**" and ~130 participants attended. During the conference, a round table discussion "**The Health Impact of Fruits and Veggies: Perspectives on Challenges and Opportunities**" was presented by Whole Foods, Kroger, HEB, Texas Restaurant Association, Houston F&V Association. The state legislators and key administrators of TAMU and AgriLife witnessed the impact of the VFIC on society at large. For the first time, the National Onion conference was hosted by the VFIC in 2006. Dr. Kil Sun Yoo, Chair (College Station).

- Pan American Plant Membrane Biology Conference 2006. Dr. Kendal Hirschi, Chair (South Padre Island)
- 4th ISHS International Symposium on Seed, Transplant and Stand Establishment 2006. Dr. Daniel Leskovar, Chair (San Antonio)

#### **Leadership efforts to demonstrate VFIC impact to state, federal legislatures and industry stakeholders (selected events are listed below)**

- **Co-chair**, Goal-3 and member of steering committee-National Vegetable Research Initiative-This is a national level joint effort between industry-academic.
- Communicated the impact of VFIC research, educational and outreach activities to the state and federal legislatures. Group of industry stakeholders joined every year.
- Participated in Ag Day at the State Capitol, Austin, TX- April 2007. approximately 1,200 state legislative staff and general public visitors.
- From 2005, new session on "**VFIC's emerging research related to Foods for Health by the VFIC scientists**" was introduced and four key VFIC scientists research is being featured during the Texas Producers Convention every year.
- **Invited** for the **Congressional Briefing on "Food for Health"** which was hosted by the Senate Agriculture Committee- April 14, 2003, Russell Hall, Washington, D.C.

- Patil's research program was selected to **exhibit** poster entitled "Fighting Cancer with Food" in the "Agricultural Research and Education Serving the Nation in Food and Health" as a part of the "**Science on the Capitol Hill**" organized by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in Washington DC, March 6, 2001. Participants include representatives from Texas: **U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa and Charles Stenholm** and Vice Chancellor, Director of Extension and Director of Communication.
- Hosted atleast 30 visitors group/year- Visitors included state and federal legislatures, global ambassadors, industry stakeholders, academic scientists, key administrators from national and global universities.
- Invited to participate in the S-294 **Research Showcase** as part of the United Fresh'2012 **convention** in Dallas, TX, April 29-May 2, 2012. This was a special invitation to display research and development of VFIC and Carrot human intervention studies.
- Presented a poster and participated in the New Variety and Research **Showcase** as part of the United '01 **convention** in Tampa, FL, March 18-20, 2001. This was a special invitation to display research and development of grapefruit health benefits as a part of an international convention for the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association.
- Presented two posters and participated in the New Variety and Research **Showcase** as part of the United '99 **convention** in San Diego, February 5-7, 1999.

**Service Activities outside the University (community service organizations, presentations)**

**Community**

- <sup>Keynote</sup> the Rotary Club of Brenham-January 27, 2015- Produce for Health: Challenges and opportunities for reducing risks from diseases.
- <sup>Invited</sup> Earth day, Dallas- April 22-24, 2015. Sustainable Diets: Solution to maintain healthy lifestyle?
- <sup>In</sup>Telangana American Telugu Association Health Fair, College Station, TX. -April 12, 2015- Title: Is there a better diet for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- <sup>Keynote</sup>Texas Gardens Club-85th Fall Convention, Hilton Hotel, College Station, TX. - April 24, 2013- Title: Farm to plate: Fruits and vegetables role in our diet.
- <sup>Invited</sup> Brazos, Master Gardeners Association, Title: Fruits and Vegetables in Prevention of Cancer: Scientific Oddity or Clinical Reality- June 26, 2012. College Station, TX.
- <sup>In</sup> Sustainable Ag Conference. Title: Improving Human Health: Fruits and Vegetables from Sustainable Horticulture, McAllen, Feb 4-15, 2011.
- In 2005, Texas Fruit & Vegetable Network (TFVN) was formed by the Texas Department of Human Health Service. Participated in the meeting on January 6, 2005, American Cancer Society, Texas Branch, Austin, Texas.
- Steering Committee and Quarterly Meeting of the TFVN Meeting, September 9, 2005. Elected as working group chair.
- Invited by the Weslaco High school-January 20, 2005. Title: Why do we eat fruits and vegetables?
- Invited by the Rotary Club, Edinburg, TX-February 12, 2004. Title: Citrus and Prevention of Diseases.
- Provided research material and poster to the Gardner Club-October 21, 2003- Contact person: Shirley Marrow.



- **Invited** by the Rotary Club, Bijapur, India. January 3, 2003. Title: Role of Fruits and Vegetables to Improve Human Health.
- Hosted Group Study Exchange Team as a part of **Rotary Club**. 2002.
- Invited by the Weslaco Bicultural Museum, Weslaco-March 16, 2002. Topic: Fabulous Health Benefits of Citrus.
- Hosted Med-Ed program for **Pre-Medical** students from University of Texas Health Science Center- July 20, 2002. I hosted this group every year since 2000.
- **Invited** by the Rotary Club, Ranebennur, India. December 26, 2001. Title: Human Health Benefits of Fruits and Vegetables.
- **Invited** by the Lions Club, Weslaco, TX-April 17, 2001. Title: Citrus Health Benefits.
- **Invited** by the Rotary Club, Harlingen, TX-April 13, 2001. Title: Citrus, Onion and Prevention of Diseases.
- Invited by the Sam Houston Elementary School, McAllen- May 1, 2001. Topic: What is in fruits and vegetable to make kids to eat.
- **Invited** by the Rancho Village Women's Club, Weslaco to present a talk "Citrus Health Benefits"-February 21, 2000.
- **Invited** to participate in a HEALTH AWARENESS organized by the Dr. Pablo Tagle, McAllen. Purpose of this program is to make people aware of healthy lifestyle and we displayed a poster on benefits of citrus to human health-February 19, 2000. Invited by this group for three years since 2000.
- Participated and presented a poster in the Rio Grande Valley Livestock show held in Mercedes, TX- March 15, 2000.
- Responded to at least 15 people/year for their questions and/or concerns on grapefruit juice and drug interaction.
- Participates and presents a poster in Rio Grande Valley Livestock show held in Mercedes, TX on during March 17-20, 1999.
- **Invited** to participate in a career fair arranged for over thousand 8th grades McAllen Students at the Civic Center. Our participation in this fair led to another invitation within few weeks later- December 8, 1998, January 1999 and February 2, 2000.
- Attended the Funders' Forum: A Dialogue with donors organized by the University of Texas-Pan American's Southwest Border Nonprofit Resource Center, June 4, 1998.
- Participated and presented a poster in Rio Grande Valley Livestock show held in Mercedes, TX on during March 18-22, 1998.
- Hosted at least 10 tours/year for the benefit of local school kids, winter Texans, and commodity and industry groups from different states and countries including China, Europe and Africa.

### Industry

- United Fresh- Leadership Conference-September 2015. **Invited speaker**-Developing Healthy, Safe and Tasty Produce: Challenges and Opportunities, Washington, D.C.
- <sup>Invited</sup> Viva Fresh Expo-Exploring New/improved Vegetables: Challenge and Opportunities- March 2015
- Participated in the Texas Producer Convention since 1997 and currently this organization is named as "Texas International Producers Association".
- Attended Texas Vegetable Association Board meeting every year.
- Arranged a mini-symposium- Citrus and Human Health-July 13, 2006. Sponsored by the VFIC and California Citrus Research Board. This symposium was funded by the USDA-IFAFS grant to demonstrate the impact of citrus limonoid project to citrus industry members.
- Participated in Texas Citrus Mutual Annual Mid-Year Meeting on March 2006-2008.

- Our research work on changes in functional components in citrus beverages created an interest by the Texas Citrus Exchange (TCX) to promote Grapefruit to Japanese market. We have been receiving several requests from Japan through TCX. One of graduate students, Basavaraj Girenavar, presented his results to Japanese visitors in March 2005.
- Grapefruit-drug interaction project was initiated based on the need established by grapefruit industry representatives. We have an ongoing project and results were presented to Texas Citrus Producers Board and Foundation and several professional meetings.
- Participated in the Value added product meeting organized by the Texas Citrus Producers Board- Three times in 2003 and 2004.
- Participate in Citrus Packers Association meeting-discussion on waxes and fruit rind damage-2003 (two meeting).
- Participated in the Mexican Fruit Fly meeting- June 16, 2003.
- Participated in the Valley Agriculture Research Development Council meeting- July 30, 2003.
- Participated in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Nutrition Initiative- Three times in 2003.
- Actively participated and presented research reports during the TAMUK Citrus Center Advisory committee since 1997. This committee meets every **three months**.
- Participated in Valley Citrus Conference in TAMUK Citrus Center- December 1999.
- Attended annual presentation of TexaSweet meeting in Mission on May 21, 1999.
- Attended a meeting organized by the Texas Producers Board in order to set up experiments on quarantine treatments and international shipping.
- Attended a meeting organized by the Texas Producers Board on April 15, 1998. Topic: grapefruit sectioning and irradiation.
- Attended a meeting organized by the Texas Citrus Producers Board on December 4, 1998 to discuss plans for red grapefruit day.