**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

**‘Enhancing Educational Outcomes for Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Use’**

**Meeting Notes July 11, 2023**

Attending: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Jill Zarestky, CSU School of Education

Gina Cerimele, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Forrest Douglass, USDA-ARS, Ames

Gayle Volk, USDA-6ARS, Fort Collins

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Forrest: Updates from Ames PI Station. Forrest has been working on the Entomology, NCRPIS Virtual Tour, Germination, and Spinach videos, all of which are complete or nearing completion. Videos of an interview with Candy and of the 2022 NAPB meeting won’t be finished by Forrest’s departure from the project on July 20. All of Forrest’s files will be stored on the NCRPIS server, and on a hard drive that he’ll send to Gayle/Kat.
2. Assibi/Stephen: Updates from Iowa State Univ. Assibi has submitted the final report of ISU’s subaward under the HEC project. Stephen is now scheduled to complete his degree in fall semester.
3. Kierra/Gayle: Fall 2023 course registration status. Kierra reported there are currently 5 students registered for each course (4 on-campus, 1 online). Gayle announced that the Crop Trust will provide 15 scholarships for each course, one to each of 15 developing country genebanks it supports. Gayle will coordinate with Kierra about facilitating or monitoring registration for these students.
4. Jill: Evaluation of CSU Online Courses: 11 students have responded to the survey request and Jill’s student Michelle is analyzing the results. CSU’s IRB has approved the survey of GRIN-U users. This will be sent to GRIN-U subscribers (Gary will send current list) within a couple of weeks, and the survey will remain open for a couple of months. The survey will be mentioned in the next quarterly update newsletter.
5. Gary/Kat: GRIN-U updates. Several changes will be implemented to facilitate categorizing and searching of content. These include designation of original GRIN-U vs. externally sourced content; a new format type (Articles & Blogs); and new topics (crop stories, historical, climate change, landrace & heirloom varieties, and pests & pathogens. The ‘Learner Type’ designation will be replaced by ‘Audience’ (general or technical). The next quarterly update newsletter will be delayed until these changes have been made.

6. Gayle: USDA review and approval of ebook chapters have become more complicated, but four new success stories from Corvallis have now been approved and are ready for posting. During Gayle’s recent European trip, there was enthusiastic support for our project’s goals and products. Gayle also presented the ebook user data that Deana compiled, showing many visitors and page views since February.

1. Kat: Work on Success Stories and other ebooks continues. This project’s contributions to Spur include developing the PBL high school curriculum and planning for a Second Saturday event in December, ‘All About Beans’. Kat’s involvement with Spur activities is winding down.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 10 am-11:30 am MST