**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting Notes August 8, 2023**

Attending: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

 Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

 Kierra Jewell, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

 Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

 Gayle Volk, USDA-6ARS, Fort Collins

 Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. **Kierra/Gayle: Fall 2023 registration status for online courses**

Currently, 4 on-campus students and 1 online student are registered for credit for all 3 courses.

For the non-credit version, 7, 14, and 8 students are registered for courses 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

Crop Trust is funding a total of 16 registrations.

Geoff and Gayle have been meeting to update the courses and minimize redundancies.

1. **Deana: Upskilling; badges; career paths**

Deana inquired about interest in developing new badge courses, e.g., on cryopreservation. Gayle says to hold off for now. Gayle also suggested making access to the badge courses easier or better explained.

Pat said he mentioned the upskilling courses to an AgCareers.com rep at Spur. Deana will follow up.

Kat will add Deana as an administrator on new ebooks so she can track usage.

1. **Assibi/Candy: Updates from Iowa State Univ.**

Assibi has submitted the revised version of his Bambara groundnut chapter for the Understudied Indigenous Crops ebook.

Gayle will contact Candy about sending the hard drive with all of Forrest’s files.

1. **Gary: GRIN-U updates**

The quarterly GRIN-U newsletter was sent to subscribers (currently 105) last week.

Changes in GRIN-U searching and navigating have all or mostly been completed.

There have been 5600 unique visitors to GRIN-U.org since launch.

Should we have an option for deleting expired material after a specified date? Deana will consult with Laura to see what the options are.

1. **Gayle: Crop Trust collaboration and other updates**

Gayle has communicated with Crop Trust personnel about collaborating on the development of training materials. This may lead to a formal agreement between USDA and Crop Trust.

Gayle will help staff a USDA table at the national conference of FALCON (First Americans Land-Grant Consortium) in Denver in October.

1. **Kat: Updates on video and ebook projects**

With the Bambara groundnut contribution, we’ll have four chapters in the Understudied Indigenous Crops ebook. It would be good to have two more chapters before release; Pat said he’d work on these.

More success stories are also needed; Gayle will continue making personal requests.

Should there be a space for posting photos on GRIN-U? Kat will investigate a link to Flickr or bugwood.org.

1. **Pat: Spur activities; field plots**

Pat presented on the project to a group of ag professionals at Spur, Aug. 2-3.

Field plots at ARDEC are doing well, but weed control is a struggle.

The PBL high school curriculum on crop genetic diversity is set to begin in fall semester, with 20 high schools signed up. Pat and Kat are contributing content.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 10 am-11:30 am MST