**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting notes, October 3, 2023, 10 am MDT**

Attending: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

Gayle Volk, USDA-ARS, Fort Collins

1. Pat: Advisory Council meeting will be held Nov. 6, 9-10:30 am. We will update the advisors on activities over the past 6 months and ask for their thoughts on priorities for the final months of the project and beyond.
2. Gayle:

* Her collecting trip to Vietnam was successful in acquiring germplasm of apple and apple relatives, including some rare materials.
* CSU Online courses: Course 1 taught by Geoff has ended and Gayle is currently teaching Course 2 on PGR conservation. Many of the students work at developing country genebanks and are funded by Crop Trust.
* Two chapters on exploration for plant genetic resources for the ebook ‘Fundamentals of Genebanking’ have been completed by Karen Williams, approved by USDA, and uploaded to GRIN-U.

1. Deana:

* The registration process for badge courses has been streamlined.
* A blurb about the upskilling program will be on CSU Source and material distributed to high school students.
* She will run numbers on ebook usage prior to the Advisory Council meeting Nov. 6.
* She and Gary will work with Laura on a process for auto-deleting outdated content.

1. Gary: GRIN-U updates (via email).

* He proposed early November for release of the next quarterly GRIN-U newsletter.
* Usage stats for GRIN-U continue the gradual increase. 6.1K unique users since the July 2021 launch, of those 3.1K are in this calendar year to date. There are at least 100 unique users from five countries: US, China, India, Brazil, and Germany. There is always a brief spike in new user counts when we release the quarterly newsletter.

5. Pat:

* The ARDEC demo plots have been a hit, both at the Field Day Sept. 20 and on follow-up tours for a variety of visitors. Kat recorded videos and Kat and Gayle took photos for use in future GRIN-U materials.
* The high school PBL curriculum to which Kat and Pat contributed is up and running.
* A Second Saturday event at Spur, ‘All About Beans’, is scheduled for Dec. 9. Jess Davis’ group of grad students and post-docs and the undergrad Bean Club (who knew there was such a thing?) will contribute.
* Pat and Gayle have proposed an Osher course (for adults age 50+) at Spur in April.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 10 am-11:30 am MST