**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**AGENDA February 7, 2023, 10 am MST**

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

Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

AssibiMahama, ISU Agronomy

Forrest Douglass, USDA-ARS, Ames

Gayle Volk, USDA-ARS, Fort Collins

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Pat:

* 1-year no-cost extension of the NIFA grant until May 31, 2024 has been approved. Similar extensions to the USDA-ARS and ISU subawards have been or will be requested.
* Natural Sciences Education manuscript on GRIN-U.org has been submitted.
* According to Kierra, the three online courses are now considered permanent (not just experimental) courses.

1. Assibi: Updates from Iowa State

* Stephen is on track to complete his MS program this spring; will present his research at the Maize Genetics Conference in March.
* Assibi is working on a Bambara groundnut chapter for the Understudied Crops ebook.
* Assibi will check financial status of the subaward.

1. Forrest: updates from Ames PI station

* Most of the curator videos will be uploaded by tonight.
* Will send link to sunflower regeneration video and guidelines for recording curator videos.
* Will review tags for searching content in YouTube channel and GRIN-U.org.

1. Jill: Evaluation activities

* CSU Online Courses. Geoff will send a message to 2021 and 2022 students requesting they complete the survey developed by Jill.
* GRIN-U user survey. Jill will circulate a draft survey to be sent this spring to GRIN-U subscribers list (currently ~83 members). This will be followed up with interviews of selected users.

1. Gary: GRIN-U updates

* Quarterly newsletter of new content was emailed to GRIN-U subscribers, NPGS, and Crop Germplasm Committees. A bump in logins was seen immediately afterward.
* Since inception there have been ~3500 unique users, 70% from U.S.

1. Deana:

* Google Analytics: Investigating whether HEC members can be eliminated from Pressbooks usage data.
* Career paths: Deana will meet with College of Ag Sciences staff to see what career materials are already available.
* Content for badges: The Crop Wild Relatives unit is nearing completion and will include a link to career information.

1. Gayle:

* ‘Climate-Ready Plant Collections’ ebook has been released.
* Gayle is compiling a glossary of PGR terms, coordinating with Crop Trust and other existing glossaries.
* She is in contact with a USDA communications group about public seed saving information.

1. Kat:

* Ebooks in progress on cryopreservation of banana, Understudied Indigenous Crops, and Success Stories (new chapters on blueberries and beets).
* Spur activities on Semilla project (outreach to students from minority-serving high schools) in March-April; Problem-Based Learning curriculum in Fall 2023; and ‘All About Beans’ (Second Saturday event in November or December).

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