**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting notes March 7, 2023**

Present: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Jill Zarestky, CSU School of Education

Kierra Jewell, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

AssibiMahama, ISU Agronomy

Candy Gardner, ISU Agronomy

Forrest Douglass, USDA-ARS, Ames

Gayle Volk, USDA-ARS, Fort Collins

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Pat: HEC grant and USDA-ARS subaward have been extended till May 31, 2024. The ISU subaward will end May 31, 2023, with no need to extend beyond that date. Kat Chen has won the CSU Distinguished Administrative Professional Award for her work on the HEC project and other responsibilities.
2. Assibi: Updates from Iowa State University

* Stephen Gray’s thesis defense has been rescheduled for summer to allow him to complete his data analysis. He recently won a Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award. He will attend the Maize Genetics Conference and present his research this month.
* Assibi hopes to finish a draft of the Bambara groundnut chapter for the Understudied Indigenous Crops ebook by Spring Break.

1. Forrest/Candy: Updates from PI Station, Ames IA

* Several videos are planned during Forrest’s final months on the project. These include shorter videos on specific processes and longer videos on spinach, parsley, a virtual tour of NCPIS, and an interview with Candy.

1. Deana: Upskilling; badges; career paths

* Deana, her assistant Dessa, Kat, and Pat have designed a Career Resources page for GRIN-U, which was programmed and posted by Laura Gu. The page includes information about career paths and badging opportunities. Editing suggestions are welcome.
* Deana showed output from Google Analytics on usage of GRIN-U ebooks.

1. Geoff/Jill: Evaluation of CSU Online Courses 1, 2 & 3; Survey of GRIN-U users

* Jill will follow up with Geoff with regard to sending out course surveys

1. Gary: GRIN-U updates

* The Career page and links are the primary new features for GRIN-U

1. Gayle: Ebook chapters; videos

* Waiting for Exploration chapters and blueberry success story reviews/approvals. Working on pollen ebook chapters next, and hopefully one about maintaining genetically engineered materials in genebanks.

1. Kat: Understudied Indigenous Crops and Success Stories ebooks; Spur activities

* Kat and Pat gave presentations on March 6 at CSU’s Spur campus to high school students from La Junta, CO. Work continues on the ebooks Understudied Indigenous Crops and Success Stories.
* Other: Kierra will update the CSU Online course webpage.

**Next meeting:** No meeting in April. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 10-11:30 am MST