**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting notes June 6, 2023, 10 am MDT**

Attending: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Kierra Jewell, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

Forrest Douglass, USDA-ARS, Ames

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Pat: Year 3 annual report for the HEC grant will be submitted soon.

ARDEC demo plot is planted.

Next month’s meeting will be on July 11, as the first Tuesday is July 4.

1. Forrest: Updates from PI Station, Ames.

Videos on parsley and sunflower were recently posted; spinach will follow this week. Other videos in progress deal with entomology, germination, an interview with Candy, and a virtual tour of the Ames PI station. Videos from the NAPB tour of the station will be posted in some form, possibly in coordination with Kevin Falk of Corteva. Forrest’s last day with the project is July 20.

1. Kierra: Registration links for all Fall 2023 courses are now available for resident students and CSU Online credit and non-credit options.
2. Jill: Evaluation of CSU Online Courses and survey of GRIN-U users.

There are now 10 respondents to the student survey, and Jill will start working through that data this month. She’s still waiting for IRB approval for the GRIN-U users survey. She is planning to submit a poster proposal to the 2024 annual conference of the Academy of Human Resource Development, typically due in September.

1. Pat: Another type of impact evaluation of interest to the National Plant Germplasm System is the usage of genebank accessions for cultivar development. Pat and Dave Bubeck (Advisory Council) have contacted Fan-Li Chou of the American Seed Trade Association, inquiring whether ASTA would be willing to coordinate an anonymous survey of private seed companies regarding their usage. Gary said there’s ongoing discussion within NPGS about a coordinated survey of germplasm recipients, but that effort is bogged down in USDA bureaucracy. Gary mentioned a relevant 2022 article of NPGS germplasm usage of 10 major crops: [https://doi.org/10.1186/s43170-022-00081-y](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdoi.org%2F10.1186%2Fs43170-022-00081-y&data=05%7C01%7CPatrick.Byrne%40ColoState.EDU%7Ca1c6732d43d3446eb11408db66aef961%7Cafb58802ff7a4bb1ab21367ff2ecfc8b%7C0%7C0%7C638216673921702623%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ESbuPzWFtoQiOXCtZs4pTeLGwxHF2riDHoFs89VaVdQ%3D&reserved=0)
2. Deana: GRIN-U ebook user data indicates over 11,000 visitors since February (excluding HEC participants). The most visited books deal with cryopreservation and crop wild relatives. The College of Agricultural Sciences new upskilling website is in progress. Two people so far have logged into the crop wild relative badging site.
3. Gary: Since the launch of GRIN-U.org in July, 2021, there have been 5,000 unique users from 122 countries; top countries are the U.S., China, Canada, India, and Brazil (in that order). The next quarterly email update to GRIN-U subscribers will be sent in July. An enhancement to GRIN-U suggested by the NGRAC to improve display of search results was drafted by Laura Gu and approved by those in attendance. Additional tweaks will be communicated by Kat to Laura (include Crop Stories under Topic Areas; add Blogs and Articles under Formats; label materials as original GRIN-U content or developed by others; move some items from Other Resources to searchable categories).
4. Kat: A new set of four success stories is nearly ready to go public. Additional ebooks, including one on pollen preservation, are underway. For CSU Spur activities, Kat and Pat have been contributing content to a Problem Based Learning high school curriculum scheduled for Fall, 2023.

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