**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting Notes, September 5, 2023, 10 am MDT**

Present: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Jill Zarestky, CSU School of Education

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Deana Namuth-Covert, CSU College of Agricultural Sciences

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Kierra/Pat: Current enrollment for this semester’s three online courses is 15, 19, and 13. Course 1 is underway with students from many countries and institutions. To consider for the future:
   * Offer the courses completely asynchronously?
   * Think about alternate instructors if Geoff is not able to continue teaching the courses.
2. Jill: Evaluation of CSU Online Courses 1, 2 & 3; Survey of GRIN-U users

* Only 10 students from previous years’ courses have responded to the evaluation survey request. With larger enrollments this year, and possibly with the assistance of Crop Trust, we’ll hope for a better response.
* The GRIN-U users survey went out a couple of weeks ago to about 80 subscribers, and a few responses have been received.
* Jill will submit an abstract for a poster at a professional meeting in February. She will work with Gary and Gayle to get ARS approval.

1. Deana: Upskilling; badges; ebook usage.

* Since February there have been 21,982 visitors to our ebooks, with the cryopreservation ebook accounting for 14,000 of those.
* Deana will update the instructions and send the link for registering for the badge courses.
* She will work with Laura on how to deal with outdated content on GRIN-U.

1. Gary: GRIN-U updates.

* Since the launch of GRIN-U.org, there have been 5,900 unique visitors, of which 2,800 have been from the current calendar year. There are 6 countries with at least 100 unique visitors.
* New ebook chapters on plant exploration by Karen Williams are under review by USDA.

1. Kat: Updates on high school (PBL) curriculum; video and ebook projects

* The high school PBL course will soon be underway with ~27 schools participating.
* Kat has investigated establishing a photo gallery on Flickr. She will also look into Bugwood.com.
* Work is continuing on ebooks on pollen preservation and understudied, indigenous crops.
* Our YouTube channel now has 3,221 subscribers.
* Kat is moving to Vermont at the end of September, but will continue working for CSU/USDA remotely.

1. Pat

* There will be a Field Day open to the public, including the crop diversity demo plots, on September 20 (announcement attached).
* Pat and Gayle are considering offering an Osher course (for 50+ adults) at Spur in Spring, 2024.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 10 am-11:30 am MST