**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting notes, November 7, 2023, 10 am MST**

Participating: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Jill Zarestky, CSU School of Education

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Candy Gardner, ISU Agronomy

Gayle Volk, USDA-6ARS, Fort Collins

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Pat: some of the major take aways from the Advisory Council meeting Nov. 6 were

* The group expressed strong support for finding continued funding beyond May, 2024. We will convene a dedicated meeting in January to focus on this issue.
* A survey on PGR usage by private and public breeders, possibly through the National Assoc. of Plant Breeders, was discussed. A list of potential questions will be drafted by Byrne and Bubeck and distributed to the broader group for input.

1. Gayle: Presented the 6-month activity report prepared for the Advisory Council, including new GRIN-U videos and ebooks, CSU Online courses, presentations to various groups, and Spur activities.
2. Candy: She will save all the files from Forrest Douglass’ laptop onto her computer and Gayle’s hard drive. Her interview video is ready for editing.
3. Jill: The survey of CSU Online students will be sent out for the Fall, 2023 courses to add to responses from the Fall, 2022 courses. Jill will contact Nelissa of the Crop Trust about getting feedback from the Trust-funded students. There have been ~20 responses to the GRIN-U user survey, which will stay open till January. Jill needs comments on her poster abstract by this Friday.
4. Gary: The GRIN-U quarterly newsletter was sent Nov. 6 to subscribers and NPGS staff. Since launch, there have been 6500 unique users, with >100 users from six countries.
5. Deana (via email): Compiled ebook usage ranges from 19,000 visitors for Cryopreservation to 191 visitors for Applications of Plant Pathology. Three people have registered for the Upskilling badge on Crop Wild Relatives.
6. Kat: Two new chapters are nearly ready for the Success Stories ebook. Options for a photo gallery connected to GRIN-U include Flickr ($72/year) and Bugwood (no charge). Gayle will contact the ARS Communications office to get their input on establishing a photo gallery. Gary commented that we’d need to make a distinction between photos for the new photo gallery and those more appropriate for GRIN-Global.
7. Pat: A variety of activities is planned for ‘All About Beans’, Dec. 9 at Spur.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 10 am-11:30 am MST