**Higher Education Challenge Grant Project**

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

**Meeting notes March 5, 2024, 10 am MST**

Attending: Pat Byrne, CSU Soil and Crop Sciences

Kat Chen, CSU/NLGRP

Gayle Volk, USDA-ARS, Fort Collins

Gary Kinard, USDA-ARS, Beltsville

1. Pat:

* Current project ends May 31; final report encompassing all 4 years of the project will be due within 120 days.
* Future funding: Clare Coyne (USDA-ARS/Washington State Univ. and a member of our Advisory Board) has agreed to take the lead in developing a project proposal, either to the HEC program (due next March) or another funding source.

1. Gayle:

* CSU Online courses: Gayle, Pat, and Geoff have a meeting next week to discuss the courses for Fall 2024.
* Osher courses: Gayle and Pat will offer two courses for adult learners in April, one in Fort Collins and the other at Spur in Denver.
* Gayle has recently visited NPGS-affiliated sites in Miami, Puerto Rico, and Arizona, recording videos and requesting success stories.
* Ebook chapters in progress deal with core collections and cryopreservation.
* Several activities are underway to document and quantify the impact of NPGS collections.

1. Jill (via email):

* Poster at recent Academy of Human Resource Development conference was well received. Analysis of survey results for CSU Online Courses and GRIN-U users is ongoing.
* Part of the survey results indicate there is room for improvement in our information on PGR careers. Kat and Pat will work to enhance the Career Resources page of GRIN-U to make it more informative and engaging.

1. Gary: GRIN-U updates and usage

* Since the launch of GRIN-U there have been 8300 unique users, of which 5300 are from the US. As usual, there was a bump in visits after the most recent update newsletter.
* Laura will update GRIN-U to conform to the recent php upgrade by the hosting service.

1. Deana (via email):
   * There are now 7 registrants in the Crop Wild Relatives badge course.
   * Ebook usage since Feb. 2023 is 49,721 visitors and 68,364 page views. Cryopreservation of Clonal Propagules is the most visited by far. Detailed breakdowns by ebook are in Deana’s spreadsheet sent today.
2. Kat:

* Work continues on a long list of success stories and ebook chapters. Some require co-author or ARS approval.
* Everyone should send relevant externally sourced content to Kat for inclusion in GRIN-U.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 2, 10 am-11:30 am MDT