

Need for a Plant Genetic Resource Management Training Program

- Estimated 30% of NPGS staff could/will? retire during the next 5 years.
- National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (NPGCC) discussed that during May 2017 meeting.
- Gayle Volk (USDA/ARS) and Pat Byrne (Colorado State) submitted a grant proposal to USDA/National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to convene a workshop to discuss how to train the next generation of PGR managers, researchers, etc.



Planning Conference to Develop Strategies for Training the Next Generation of U.S. Plant Genebank Managers

Objectives

- 1) Host a conference to identify the pedagogical options, logistics, and curriculum topics for a U.S. plant genetic resource management training effort, with major emphasis on a distance-learning course.
- 2) Design a strategy to develop, deliver, and sustain a plant genetic resource management training program.

Planning Conference
Co-Hosted by NLGRP and Colorado State University
April 24-26, 2018, Fort Collins, Colorado

<http://genebanktraining.colostate.edu/index.html>

33 Attendees represented USDA-ARS, USDA-NIFA, land-grant universities, seed industry, Mexico's and Canada's genebanks, a botanic garden, and The Crop Trust

Presentations:

- NPGS operations
- Accessibility/utility to customers
- International perspectives
- Distance-learning
- Business models

Breakout sessions:

- NPGS genebank and information management
- Ensuring utility of germplasm and associated information

Proposed Training Program

Goals

- To build and sustain the human capacity to appreciate, maintain and promote utilization of plant genetic resources.
- To educate professionals in principles and practices of genetic resources management, utilization, and conservation.

What's next?

Submitted a Higher Education Challenge Program Planning Grant proposal to USDA-NIFA Planning Activity for a Multi-Institution Genebank Training Program (1 year)

PIs: Pat Byrne (Colorado State) and Silvia Cianzio (Iowa State)

Key Personnel:

USDA: Gayle Volk, Candice Gardner, Stephanie Greene, Christina Walters

Iowa State: Thomas Lubberstedt, Maria Salas Fernandez

Objectives

1. To explore existing PGR educational resources and determine subject areas that are lacking or need enhancement.
2. To investigate alternative administrative frameworks for coordinating training materials developed by multiple universities.
3. To identify the best options for delivering training on specific topics (e.g., online courses, a resource library of “learning objects”, webinars, hands-on workshops).
4. To convene a meeting in February 2019 to decide on an administrative framework, specific content and format of training materials, responsibilities, and budget.
5. To develop a 1-credit online training module on a priority PGR topic.

Plan to submit a multi-year Higher Education Challenge Program Grant in 2019 for implementation

What's next?

- Design a framework for making learning objects available through GRIN-Global
- Develop criteria for learning objects (resolution, quality, etc.)
- Seek learning objects from NPGS sites
- As resources permit, develop learning objects for site activities