

**National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee Conference Call Notes**  
**Wednesday, February 27**  
**11:30 am Eastern**

1. NPGS Update – Peter

- a. Norway – germplasm vault opened for germplasm preservation
  - i. 10,000 samples shipped from US
  - ii. Norway government funded construction, Global Crop Diversity Trust in Rome will fund maintenance and operations
- b. ARS & Biodiversity International partnered with World Bank (focuses on building gene bank capacity) to support transformation of GRIN to state of the art version that can be adapted to desktop PC's as well as large services
  - i. Make user interface friendly
  - ii. Better for curators
  - iii. Interfaces better with genebank databases
  - iv. Will be called GRIN Global
- c. Budget for National Plant Germplasm System
  - i. FY'08 was reduced ~0.7 % across the board
  - ii. President proposed '09 would reduce ARS overall by ~ 13%, but has an increase from reallocation of \$3.25 million in genomics, germplasm, and collections, which indicates it's an agency priority
  - iii. CSREES Hatch funds are proposed to be cut and majority of remaining go to competitive multistate projects
- d. ARS programs reviews have found that National Plant Germplasm System programs are very high quality and received excellent reviews

2. Contacts with Organizations Involved in Germplasm Preservation

- a. Organic Seed Association interested in hearing about National Plant Germplasm System and the NPGCC
- b. ASTA is interested in designating someone as an observer
- c. AOSCA also would like to be involved
  - i. Candy is willing to do presentation at their summer meeting
  - ii. Lee will talk to UC's rep about a NPGCC presentation at their next meeting

3. Spring NPGCC Meeting

- a. June 3 – Crop Germplasm Committee
- b. June 4 – noon on June 5 – PGOC meeting
- c. June 5 – 8:00 -5:00 NPGCC meeting
  - i. Stay at Ft. Collins Hilton
  - ii. Tours of seed lab on Thursday afternoon, about 1 hour each
  - iii. Probably have a box lunch then take 1 or 2 tours early afternoon, finish business after tours

4. Other Items

- a. Put Cotton Winter Nursery agreement on agenda for Ft. Collins meeting
- b. Video on National Plant Germplasm System
  - i. Need to identify an appropriate organization to affiliate with to do video
- c. Next conference call after Fort Collins meeting unless needed