2024 *Vigna* Crop Germplasm Committee Minute Meeting

Date: March 21, 2024; 12:00-1:00 pm EST

Participants:

Blair, Matthew <mblair@tnstate.edu> - Tennessee State University
Close, Tim <timothy.close@ucr.edu> - University of California, Riverside
Gayle Volk <gayle.volk@usda.gov> USDA ARS National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation
Gary, Kinard - <gary.kinard@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS National Germplasm Resources Lab
Ozia-Akins, Peggy < pozias@uga.edu> - University of Georgia
Payne, Bill <wpayne@unr.edu> - University of Nevada, Reno
Ravelombola, Waltram <waltram.ravelombola@ag.tamu.edu> -Texas A&M AgriLife-Research
Shi, Ainong <ashi@uark.edu> -University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
Tallury, Shyam <shyam.tallury@usda.gov> - USDA-ARS Geneticist, Peanut and Vigna Curator
van Zonneveld, Marteen < maarten.vanzonneveld@worldveg.org> -World Vegetable Center
von Wettberg, Eric Bishop <eric.bishop-von-wettberg@uvm.edu> - University of Vermont

Waltram Ravelombola, Chairperson, started the meeting at 12:00 pm EST, welcomed the participants, and asked for the approval of the agenda. The meeting was initially scheduled using Zoom. However, due to last minute technical issues, the meeting was switched to Teams.

1) Introduction of participants

A total of 11 participants attended the meeting via Teams.

2) National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) review

Dr. Gayle Volk highlighted the importance of success stories to show impacts. Examples of success stories of developed variety or germplasm using accessions from NPGS were presented during the meeting. Dr. Volk also introduced GRIN-U and other resources to the Vigna CGC members. A PGR success story fillable form was shared to members.

3) National Germplasm Resources (NGRL)

Dr. Gary R. Kinard shared 2024 NGRL report to members and provided updates on personnel. Plant exploration and exchange program were discussed. Updates on the CGC chair committee meeting were also provided.

4) Germplasm Status Report

Dr. Shyam Tallury presented the report on the *Vigna* germplasm status. The inventory of germplasm includes 8299, 4224, 89, of cowpea [*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.], mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) R. Wilczek], and bambara groundnut [*Vigna subterranea* (L.) Verdc.], respectively. A total of 494 accessions of other *Vigna* are also maintained. Germplasm regeneration of cowpea and bambara groundnut are conducted. A total of 3,126 *Vigna* PIs were distributed nationally and internationally during FY23.

5) Update of *Vigna* CGC funded projects and Crop Vulnerability Statement

Dr. Waltram Ravelombola presented a report on the FY23 funded project: "Estimating Biological Nitrogen Fixation of the USDA Cowpea Germplasm" (06/2022-12/2023). The USDA accessions were evaluated for biological nitrogen fixation using the natural abundance method. Agronomic data including nodule number per plant, number weight per plant, biomass and seed yield were also collected. The data were submitted to Dr. Tallury.

A discussion on publishing the *Vigna* crop vulnerability in a peer-reviewed journal was also initiated. Dr. Ravelombola will send an email to the Vigna CGC members interested in updating the document. An Excel spreadsheet having the document sections will be distributed to members who will fill out their name in the section they are interested in updating.