

**Attachment J: Non-Response Follow-up Telephone Questionnaire Script**

## Census of Users of the National Plant System

### Script for Phone Calls to Non-Respondents

*The purpose of this telephone follow-up is to assess whether respondents to the Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System differ from non-respondents in their expectations of future use of NPGS materials. Non-respondents contacted by phone will be asked to complete an abridged set of questions, focusing on expected changes in demand for NPGS germplasm. It is intended for use with a sample of 100 non-responding requesters of NPGS resources. For two of the questions, the interviewer will order the choices using existing information.*

“Hello. May I speak with [insert requestor’s name]? This is [Insert Name] from the USDA Economic Research Service. I’m calling to follow up with you about the Census of Users of the National Plant Germplasm System. Did you receive an invitation to participate in the Census from the National Genetic Resources Lab?”

If the questionnaire was received and answered: “Thank you. We appreciate your time. Goodbye.”

If the questionnaire was received but not answered: “I understand. Would you be willing to answer four brief questions about your experience with the NPGS? This will take no more than 5 minutes.”

If requestor says “no,” say “Thank you anyway. Goodbye.”

If requestor says “yes,” say “Good. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it has a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The valid OMB number for this information collection is XXXX-XXXX. The time required to complete this information is estimated to average no more than 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching the existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the collection of the information.

**YOUR RESPONSE IS VOLUNTARY.** The questionnaire does not ask you for any personal information or the name of the institution at which you work. The responses that you provide are not confidential and are not covered by the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002. Responses will be aggregated to describe expectations of future use. USDA will treat all information gathered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).”

1. “The first question is did you request material from the NPGS during 2009-2013?”

If respondent says “No,” thanks them for their time and end the call.

If respondent says “Yes,” go to question 2, and ask questions 2-4.

2. “The second question: Over the next 10 years, do you expect your use of the NPGS to increase, decrease, or stay the same?”
  
3. “What type of institution do you work for? Here are the choices: You can stop me when you hear the right answer.” (Order choices according to NGRL classification information.)
  - o Seed company
  - o Government Agency
  - o University
  - o Non-governmental organization
  - o Genebank
  - o Self employed
  - o Other
  
4. “What best describes your primary profession? You can stop me when you hear the right choice.” (Order choices according to answer to question 3.)
  - o Acquisition/curatorial activities
  - o Pre-breeding/evaluation activities
  - o Breeding
  - o Genetics/molecular biology
  - o Education
  - o Farming
  - o Other

“Okay, that’s all I need. Thank you very much for your time. Goodbye.”