

Wheat field demonstration especially Samba wheat(*Dicoccum*) is jointly organized by Directorate of wheat Development Gurugram in joining hands with – Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Regional Station, Wellington, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra(KVK), Vivekananadapuram, Karamadai, Coimbatore and Department of Agriculture, Govt of Tamil Nadu for the Implementation of Pilot Project entitled **“Enhancement of wheat productivity through Bio-fortified wheat(*dicoccum*) production technologies through cluster demonstration and farmers training”** under National Food Security Mission-to ensure nutritional Security for the people of Tamil Nadu. The *dicoccum*(Samba) wheat has high nutritional quality with high protein(>14%), Micro nutrients and good quality fibre approved as health food and functional food by FDA(USA) and Government of India. This species of wheat was widely grown over part of Tamil Nadu (hilly regions and areas adjoining hills) as a traditional crop until the mid 80’s of 19th Century. However over the period this was replaced by commercial crops like cotton followed by Maize. Even today Samba wheat is grown during winter in sizable areas in and around Udumalpet in Tirupur dist and Gudimangalam/Negamam of Pollachi and The Nilgiri hills regions as traditional crops for their home consumption. Incidentally the large numbers of millers who make Samba wheat products are located in and around Coimbatore and bring wheat raw material from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Because of awareness among the people of Tamil Nadu for *dicoccum* as health food having low glycemic Index and act as functional food in diabetic management the demand for the product of *dicoccum* like Rawa, Gothi etc is very high and this gives better opportunity to market the harvested products.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Regional Station, Wellington in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, after extensive research, developed and released Samba wheat varieties like COW-2 and HW 1098. These varieties are suitable for cultivation in the cooler regions of Tamil Nadu. These varieties has high yield potential of 3-4 ton/ha with multiple disease resistance and climate resilience under short winter conditions of TN in the areas of hills & areas adjoining hills covering The Nilgiris, Kodaikanal, Kolli hills, Thalawadi, Servarayan hills and plain areas in Thiruvannamalai, Vellore, Samlem, Kallakurichi, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Erode, Coimbatore, Thiruppur, Namakkal, Dindugul and Theni.

The Government of India has now chosen this wheat for ensuring food and nutritional security of Tamil Nadu through National Food Security Mission through Directorate of wheat Development Gurugram, Haryana