



For **BIO**tiful Life!
Organic product. Rural diversity.

International Knowledge Exchange

September 20th, 2022
Grain Network Session

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Who we are

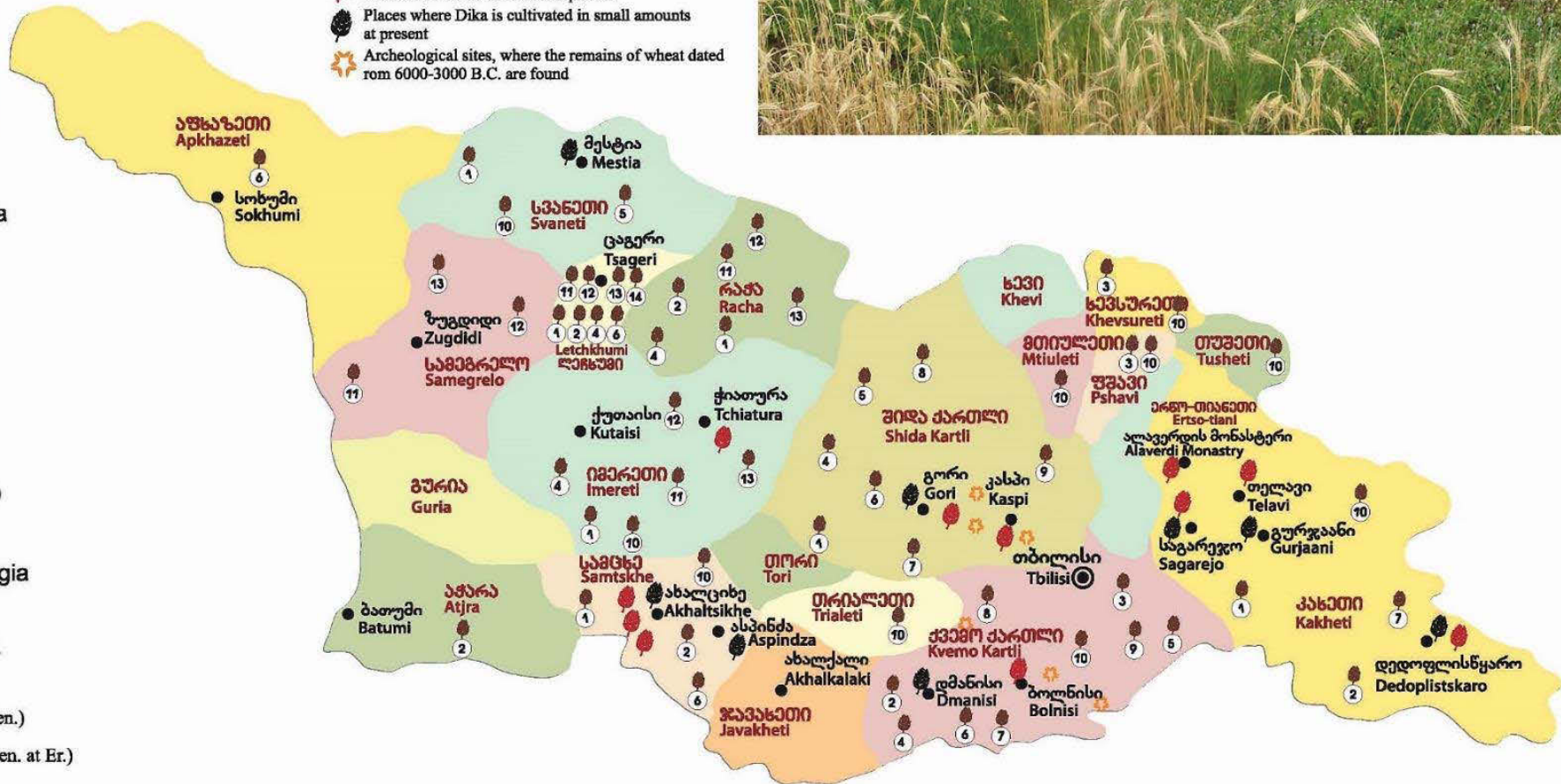
- Biological Farming Association Elkana - Georgian union of farmers active in the fields of organic farming and conservation of aboriginal crop varieties and animal breeds.
- Member of ECVC.
- Expertise in organic farming and rural development; quality systems in food production and rural tourism;
- Beneficiaries: local rural population, farmers and their associations.



Why the heritage wheat?

- Georgia / Caucasus belong to the Western Asian Centre of Origin of cultivated plants, wheat among them.
- Five species of wheat are endemic to Georgia, although within a period of 70 years of Soviet planned economy the indigenous varieties were restricted mainly to research and agricultural extension centers.
- Traditional knowledge was eroded
- Since 1996 ELKANA took initiative to reintroduce and preserve indigenous crop varieties on farmers' fields





Wheat species spread in Georgia

- 1 Bread wheat *Tr. aestivum* L.
- 2 Thavthukhi (*Tr. durum* Desf).
- 3 Asli (*Tr. dicoccum* Schuebl.)
- 4 Gvatsa Zanduri (*Tr. monococcum* L.)
- 5 Club Wheat (*Tr. compactum* Host.)
- 6 Rivet wheat *Tr. turgidum* L.
- 7 Polish wheat (*Tr. polonicum* L.)
- 8 Turanian wheat (*Tr. turanicum* Jakubz.)
- 9 Spelta (*Tr. spelta* L.)

Endemic wheat species of Georgia

- 10 Dika (*Tr. carthlicum* Nevsky)
- 11 Chelta Zanduri (*Tr. timopheevi* Zhuk).
- 12 Macha (*Tr. macha* Dek. & Men.)
- 13 Kolkhian Asli (*Tr. paleocolchicum* Men.)
- 14 Hexaploid Zanduri (*Tr. Zhukovskiyi* Men. at Er.)



Heritage wheat re-introduction & conservation model

1. Establish sources of primary seed material for the selected landraces
2. Strengthen the capacities of a local farmers and their groups – training and consultations
3. Assist farmers in accessing markets – short collaborative value chains
4. Support cooperation between farmers, scientists, local authorities and private sector
5. Promotion & Education



From Households to Market

Initially, most farmers used local landraces for family consumption – citing for improved nutritional intake. Gradually these crops are gaining growing interest from consumers and are on high demand/market value among:

- Health concerned individuals and families with small children
- Artisan bakers, special shops and on-line markets selling high value farm products
- HoReCa sector



Challenges

Two heritage wheat – Akhatsikhis tsiteli dol and Dika, production reached commercial values, however the success is at initial stage

Seed Certification System that entered into force in 2021, threatens established model for seed multiplication and dissemination



Bread Festival in Akhaltsikhe 2021



Bread Festival in Akhaltsikhe 2021



Festival - Space for Traditional Products and Cuisine



პროდუქტი	მწარმოებელი	მწარმოების მეთოდი	ფორმა	ფერი	სიმაკრონი	სიკალიბრი	სიკონტინუუმი	სიკონტინუუმი	სიკონტინუუმი	სიკონტინუუმი
7-8	25-02	15-01	329	140	48	15	2-3	75	85	1,5

Festivals - Space for Strengthening Producer & Consumer Linkages



We Invite you to the Next **Bread Festival to Akhaltsikhe** to be held on
October 22nd, 2022

Thank you for Listening!



www.breadfestival.ge

