

**Table S1** Mean performances of parents, hybrids, and commercial checks for agronomic traits across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Genotype                           | Hey<br>(ton/ha) | Hed<br>(cm) | Hel<br>(cm) | WSS<br>(°Brix) | Ph<br>(cm) | Hd<br>(DAP) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Parents                            |                 |             |             |                |            |             |
| ILS <sub>1</sub>                   | 6.82            | 3.64        | 12.18       | 12.66          | 136.00     | 62.75       |
| ILS <sub>2</sub>                   | 10.49           | 3.72        | 14.36       | 14.64          | 136.25     | 62.38       |
| ILS <sub>3</sub>                   | 10.33           | 4.00        | 14.23       | 12.76          | 130.50     | 62.50       |
| ILS <sub>4</sub>                   | 14.97           | 4.10        | 18.01       | 13.65          | 193.50     | 62.88       |
| ILS <sub>5</sub>                   | 10.44           | 3.87        | 15.38       | 12.95          | 136.75     | 63.75       |
| ILS <sub>6</sub>                   | 10.44           | 4.62        | 15.14       | 14.34          | 139.75     | 62.75       |
| ILS <sub>7</sub>                   | 8.52            | 3.97        | 15.04       | 12.75          | 129.00     | 61.75       |
| ILS <sub>8</sub>                   | 4.32            | 4.01        | 12.90       | 13.35          | 129.25     | 60.63       |
| ILW <sub>1</sub>                   | 6.16            | 3.05        | 12.70       | 11.95          | 149.25     | 60.50       |
| ILW <sub>2</sub>                   | 6.51            | 3.31        | 13.13       | 10.61          | 133.75     | 59.00       |
| ILW <sub>3</sub>                   | 9.99            | 3.63        | 14.84       | 10.20          | 136.50     | 58.63       |
| Hybrids                            |                 |             |             |                |            |             |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 21.27           | 4.73        | 19.39       | 11.79          | 203.17     | 58.67       |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 16.53           | 4.34        | 17.53       | 11.51          | 174.67     | 56.42       |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 21.06           | 4.62        | 19.06       | 10.97          | 193.83     | 57.17       |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 25.37           | 4.62        | 20.28       | 11.99          | 209.50     | 58.58       |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 19.03           | 4.27        | 18.68       | 11.72          | 171.00     | 56.92       |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 18.49           | 4.60        | 18.08       | 11.66          | 189.50     | 57.33       |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 20.71           | 4.74        | 19.13       | 10.95          | 191.83     | 60.25       |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 17.94           | 4.42        | 19.10       | 10.45          | 173.17     | 58.33       |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 20.30           | 4.83        | 17.98       | 10.85          | 176.83     | 58.83       |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 21.24           | 4.71        | 20.75       | 11.45          | 216.25     | 57.17       |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 20.43           | 4.40        | 20.57       | 11.28          | 185.50     | 57.17       |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 21.91           | 4.74        | 19.39       | 11.27          | 200.83     | 56.92       |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 21.37           | 4.65        | 20.29       | 12.25          | 194.67     | 60.00       |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 18.77           | 4.34        | 20.27       | 10.86          | 172.50     | 58.42       |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 20.23           | 4.71        | 19.44       | 11.07          | 185.33     | 58.58       |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 14.25           | 4.58        | 18.80       | 10.21          | 196.67     | 56.33       |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 20.38           | 4.60        | 19.03       | 10.98          | 179.50     | 56.33       |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 20.22           | 4.90        | 18.22       | 11.04          | 184.00     | 57.45       |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 21.35           | 4.89        | 20.43       | 11.10          | 202.00     | 57.17       |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 21.05           | 4.49        | 18.77       | 10.76          | 173.33     | 56.83       |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 20.04           | 4.84        | 18.29       | 11.36          | 182.00     | 58.00       |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 18.66           | 4.82        | 18.28       | 11.22          | 211.33     | 56.58       |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 17.93           | 4.57        | 17.10       | 11.60          | 163.67     | 56.00       |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 19.10           | 4.74        | 17.39       | 11.18          | 172.00     | 56.50       |
| Mean of females                    | 9.54            | 3.99        | 14.66       | 13.39          | 141.38     | 62.42       |
| Mean of males                      | 7.55            | 3.33        | 13.56       | 10.92          | 139.83     | 59.38       |
| Mean of hybrids                    | 19.90           | 4.63        | 19.01       | 11.23          | 187.63     | 57.58       |
| Mean of top five hybrids           | 22.25           | 4.86        | 20.46       | 11.88          | 170.47     | 56.32       |
| Check 1                            | 22.01           | 4.87        | 19.74       | 13.36          | 212.17     | 60.25       |

| Genotype                                 | Hey<br>(ton/ha) | Hed<br>(cm) | Hel<br>(cm) | WSS<br>(°Brix) | Ph<br>(cm) | Hd<br>(DAP) |
|--|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Check 2                                  | 17.92           | 4.53        | 16.87       | 10.81          | 200.83     | 55.17       |
| Mean of checks                           | 19.97           | 4.70        | 18.31       | 12.09          | 206.47     | 57.71       |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub> (parents)            | 0.46            | 0.08        | 0.37        | 0.24           | 3.02       | 0.70        |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub> (hybrids and checks) | 1.01            | 0.13        | 0.72        | 0.42           | 7.57       | 0.68        |

Hey husked ear yield; Hed husked ear diameter; Hel husked ear length; WSS water soluble solid; Ph plant height; Hd harvest date; DAP days after pollination.

**Table S2** Mean performances of parents, hybrids, and commercial checks for carotenoids across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Entries                            | Carotenoid content ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ of FW) |      |      |                    |                    |                     |                                 | $\beta\text{-Car}/\beta\text{-Cry}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry}/\text{Zea}$ | $\beta\text{-Car}/(\beta\text{-Cry} + \text{Zea})$ |
|------------------------------------|---|------|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|                                    | TCC <sup>1/</sup>                           | Lut  | Zea  | $\beta\text{-Car}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry}$ | $\alpha\text{-Xan}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry} + \text{Zea}$ |                                     |                               |  |
| Parents                            |   |      |      |                    |                    |                     |                                 |                                     |                               |  |
| ILS <sub>1</sub>                   | 5.75  | 1.12 | 3.35 | 0.88               | 0.91               | 4.47                | 4.24                            | 1.20                                | 0.25                          | 0.39   |
| ILS <sub>2</sub>                   | 4.82  | 0.82 | 2.14 | 0.41               | 1.08               | 2.95                | 2.54                            | 0.34                                | 0.14                          | 0.74   |
| ILS <sub>3</sub>                   | 7.07  | 1.73 | 2.18 | 0.82               | 1.1                | 3.91                | 3.00                            | 0.87                                | 0.40                          | 1.22   |
| ILS <sub>4</sub>                   | 5.89  | 1.68 | 1.76 | 0.8                | 1.02               | 3.45                | 2.56                            | 0.93                                | 0.44                          | 1.37   |
| ILS <sub>5</sub>                   | 8.46  | 1.82 | 2.18 | 0.92               | 0.84               | 4.00                | 3.11                            | 1.32                                | 0.37                          | 0.60   |
| ILS <sub>6</sub>                   | 6.54  | 1.70 | 2.71 | 1.16               | 0.80               | 4.41                | 3.88                            | 1.96                                | 0.26                          | 0.23   |
| ILS <sub>7</sub>                   | 7.68  | 2.48 | 3.28 | 1.32               | 0.64               | 5.75                | 4.59                            | 2.27                                | 0.24                          | 0.14   |
| ILS <sub>8</sub>                   | 5.97  | 1.43 | 1.91 | 0.53               | 0.73               | 3.34                | 2.44                            | 0.63                                | 0.09                          | 0.41   |
| ILW <sub>1</sub>                   | 6.75  | 2.02 | 2.82 | 1.14               | 0.72               | 4.84                | 3.96                            | 1.68                                | 0.30                          | 0.28   |
| ILW <sub>2</sub>                   | 5.56  | 2.03 | 1.75 | 0.70               | 0.68               | 3.77                | 2.45                            | 1.06                                | 0.15                          | 0.11   |
| ILW <sub>3</sub>                   | 3.91  | 1.39 | 1.37 | 0.84               | 0.73               | 2.76                | 2.20                            | 1.38                                | 0.42                          | 0.75   |
| Hybrids                            |   |      |      |                    |                    |                     |                                 |                                     |                               |  |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 7.15  | 1.33 | 4.16 | 1.23               | 0.27               | 5.49                | 5.39                            | 4.64                                | 0.23                          | 0.06   |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 6.09  | 2.71 | 1.28 | 0.77               | 0.57               | 3.99                | 2.04                            | 1.42                                | 0.39                          | 0.51   |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 4.56  | 1.24 | 1.85 | 0.99               | 0.25               | 3.09                | 2.83                            | 3.95                                | 0.36                          | 0.15   |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 7.57  | 1.50 | 4.67 | 1.37               | 0.39               | 6.17                | 6.04                            | 3.67                                | 0.23                          | 0.08   |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 5.80  | 2.62 | 1.38 | 0.81               | 0.46               | 3.99                | 2.19                            | 1.89                                | 0.37                          | 0.34   |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 5.35  | 1.36 | 1.77 | 0.98               | 0.27               | 3.14                | 2.76                            | 3.67                                | 0.36                          | 0.15   |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 7.28  | 2.62 | 2.61 | 1.26               | 0.21               | 5.23                | 3.86                            | 5.94                                | 0.33                          | 0.08   |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 5.53  | 0.73 | 3.24 | 0.71               | 1.39               | 3.96                | 1.44                            | 0.58                                | 0.53                          | 1.97   |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 4.20  | 1.73 | 1.03 | 0.89               | 0.77               | 2.76                | 1.91                            | 1.18                                | 0.47                          | 0.75   |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 6.12  | 2.24 | 2.61 | 1.05               | 0.23               | 4.85                | 3.66                            | 4.71                                | 0.29                          | 0.09   |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 5.16  | 3.40 | 0.82 | 0.73               | 0.78               | 4.22                | 1.56                            | 0.94                                | 0.51                          | 1.30   |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 4.04  | 1.34 | 1.17 | 0.99               | 0.40               | 2.51                | 2.15                            | 2.48                                | 0.46                          | 0.35   |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 5.30  | 2.25 | 2.09 | 0.93               | 0.22               | 4.33                | 3.01                            | 4.21                                | 0.31                          | 0.11   |

| Entries                                | Carotenoid content ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ of FW) |      |      |                    |                    |                     |                                 | $\beta\text{-Car}/\beta\text{-Cry}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry}/\text{Zea}$ | $\beta\text{-Car}/(\beta\text{-Cry} + \text{Zea})$ |
|--|---|------|------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|  | TCC <sup>1/</sup>                           | Lut  | Zea  | $\beta\text{-Car}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry}$ | $\alpha\text{-Xan}$ | $\beta\text{-Cry} + \text{Zea}$ |                                     |                               |  |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub>     | 5.32  | 3.41 | 0.73 | 0.75               | 0.96               | 4.14                | 1.47                            | 0.85                                | 0.51                          | 1.32   |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub>     | 4.43  | 1.97 | 1.20 | 0.88               | 0.78               | 3.16                | 2.08                            | 1.20                                | 0.43                          | 0.73   |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub>     | 5.78  | 1.80 | 2.40 | 1.05               | 0.77               | 4.20                | 3.44                            | 4.42                                | 0.36                          | 0.81   |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub>     | 7.27  | 3.79 | 1.53 | 0.96               | 0.88               | 5.32                | 2.49                            | 1.10                                | 0.39                          | 0.58   |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub>     | 5.61  | 1.38 | 1.95 | 1.19               | 0.27               | 3.33                | 3.14                            | 4.64                                | 0.39                          | 0.14   |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub>     | 7.23  | 1.72 | 4.31 | 1.32               | 0.31               | 6.03                | 5.63                            | 4.33                                | 0.24                          | 0.07   |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub>     | 6.82  | 3.65 | 1.53 | 0.89               | 0.48               | 5.18                | 2.42                            | 1.87                                | 0.37                          | 0.32   |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub>     | 5.83  | 1.49 | 1.97 | 1.30               | 0.24               | 3.46                | 3.27                            | 5.57                                | 0.40                          | 0.12   |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub>     | 6.92  | 1.54 | 4.27 | 0.99               | 0.28               | 5.81                | 5.26                            | 3.75                                | 0.19                          | 0.07   |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub>     | 4.58  | 2.83 | 0.98 | 0.73               | 0.49               | 3.81                | 1.71                            | 1.54                                | 0.43                          | 0.53   |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub>     | 3.28  | 0.79 | 1.37 | 0.79               | 0.25               | 2.15                | 2.16                            | 3.15                                | 0.37                          | 0.19   |
| Mean of females                        | 6.52  | 1.60 | 2.44 | 0.86               | 0.89               | 4.04                | 3.30                            | 1.19                                | 0.27                          | 0.64   |
| Mean of males                          | 5.41  | 1.81 | 1.98 | 0.89               | 0.71               | 3.79                | 2.87                            | 1.37                                | 0.29                          | 0.38   |
| Mean of hybrids                        | 5.72  | 2.16 | 2.02 | 0.98               | 0.50               | 4.18                | 3.00                            | 2.99                                | 0.37                          | 0.45   |
| Mean of top 5 hybrids                  | 7.30  | 3.49 | 4.00 | 1.29               | 0.96               | 5.76                | 5.24                            | 5.10                                | 0.49                          | 1.23   |
| Check 1                                | 3.66  | 0.82 | 1.82 | 0.80               | 0.76               | 2.64                | 2.62                            | 1.43                                | 0.37                          | 0.89   |
| Check 2                                | 0.41  | nd   | nd   | nd                 | nd                 | nd                  | nd                              | nd                                  | nd                            | nd   |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub> (Parents)          | 1.62  | 1.00 | 1.24 | 0.35               | 0.30               | 1.35                | 1.53                            | 0.78                                | 0.10                          | 0.36   |
| LSD <sub>0.05</sub> (Hybrids & Checks) | 0.10  | 0.07 | 0.06 | 0.02               | 0.04               | 0.10                | 0.07                            | 0.20                                | 8.98×10 <sup>-3</sup>         | 0.04   |

<sup>1/</sup> TCC total carotenoid content; Lut lutein; Zea zeaxanthin;  $\beta\text{-Car}$   $\beta$ -carotene;  $\beta\text{-Cry}$   $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin;  $\alpha\text{-Xan}$   $\alpha$ -xanthophyll.  
nd not detected.

**Table S3** Specific combining ability (SCA) for yield-related traits of sweet-waxy corn hybrids evaluated across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Hybrids                            | Hey     | Hed                  | Hel     | WSS     | Ph      | Hd      |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 1.03**  | 0.08**               | 0.07**  | 0.23**  | -3.00** | 0.74**  |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -2.20** | -0.02**              | -1.00** | 0.17**  | -1.00** | -0.47** |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 1.17**  | -0.06**              | 0.93**  | -0.40** | 4.00**  | -0.27** |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 3.78**  | 0.04**               | 0.61**  | 0.06**  | 2.11**  | 0.46**  |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -1.04** | -0.03**              | -0.21** | 0.02    | -2.89** | -0.17** |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -2.74** | -0.01**              | -0.41** | -0.07** | 0.78**  | -0.29** |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.43**  | -0.01**              | -0.26** | 0.06**  | 0.44**  | 0.60**  |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.81** | -0.04**              | 0.49**  | -0.21** | 0.61**  | -0.28** |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.38**  | 0.05**               | -0.23** | 0.15**  | -1.05** | -0.32** |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -0.58** | 0.01**               | -0.14** | -0.02*  | -4.50** | -0.43** |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.13*   | -0.02**              | 0.46**  | 0.03*   | 5.00**  | 0.61**  |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.45**  | 3.9×10 <sup>-3</sup> | -0.32** | -0.01   | -0.50** | -0.18** |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.62**  | 1.1×10 <sup>-3</sup> | -0.37** | 0.72**  | -1.66** | 0.49**  |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.46** | -0.02**              | 0.40**  | -0.45** | 2.16**  | -0.05** |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -0.16*  | 0.02**               | -0.03   | -0.27** | -0.50** | -0.43** |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -4.66** | -0.20**              | -0.54** | -0.67** | -2.33** | -0.88** |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 2.99**  | 0.11**               | 0.48**  | 0.32**  | 3.83**  | 0.16**  |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 1.67**  | 0.09**               | 0.06**  | 0.35**  | -1.50** | 0.73**  |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -0.09   | 0.06**               | 0.61**  | -0.11** | 0.11    | -0.68** |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 1.14**  | -0.05**              | -0.26** | -0.23** | -2.39** | 0.03    |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -1.04** | -0.01**              | -0.35** | 0.34**  | 2.28**  | 0.65**  |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -0.53** | 0.02**               | 0.03*   | -0.25** | 8.83**  | -0.29** |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.26**  | 0.06**               | -0.36** | 0.35**  | -5.33** | 0.17**  |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.27**  | -0.09**              | 0.33**  | -0.10** | -3.50** | 0.12**  |

\* and \*\* SCA estimates are significantly different from zero at >SE and >2SE, respectively.

Hey husked ear yield; Hed husked ear diameter; Hel husked ear length; WSS water soluble solid; Ph plant height; Hd harvest date.

**Table S4** Specific combining ability (SCA) for carotenoids of sweet-waxy corn hybrids evaluated across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Hybrids                            | TCC     | Lut     | Zea     | $\beta$ -Car          | $\beta$ -Cry | $\alpha$ -Xan | $\beta$ -Cry+Zea | $\beta$ -Car/ $\beta$ -Cry | $\beta$ -Cry/Zea       | $\beta$ -Car/(( $\beta$ -Cry+ Zea) |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.27**  | -0.14** | 0.36**  | 0.06**                | 0.07**       | 0.22**        | 0.43**           | -0.17**                    | 2.5x10 <sup>-3*</sup>  | 0.10**                             |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.05*   | -0.09** | -0.26** | -0.04**               | -0.05**      | -0.35**       | -0.30**          | -0.20**                    | 1.6x10 <sup>-3</sup>   | -0.14**                            |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -0.32** | 0.23**  | -0.10** | -0.03**               | -0.02**      | 0.13**        | -0.13**          | 0.37**                     | 1.0x10 <sup>-3</sup>   | 0.03**                             |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.38**  | -0.04** | 0.69**  | 0.15**                | 0.18**       | 0.65**        | 0.84**           | -0.88**                    | 0.01**                 | 0.17**                             |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.54** | -0.25** | -0.34** | -0.05**               | -0.17**      | -0.59**       | -0.39**          | 0.53**                     | -0.01**                | -0.26**                            |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.16**  | 0.29**  | -0.35** | -0.09**               | -0.01        | -0.07**       | -0.45**          | 0.35**                     | 4.2x10 <sup>-3**</sup> | 0.09**                             |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.66**  | 0.38**  | -0.22** | 0.14**                | -0.42**      | 0.16**        | -0.08**          | 1.90**                     | -0.01**                | -0.57**                            |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.25** | -0.34** | 0.17**  | -0.05**               | 0.34**       | -0.17**       | 0.12**           | -0.27**                    | 4.4x10 <sup>-3**</sup> | 0.63**                             |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -0.41** | -0.05** | 0.05**  | -0.09**               | 0.07**       | 0.01          | -0.03*           | -1.63**                    | 1.0x10 <sup>-3</sup>   | -0.05**                            |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.07**  | 0.21**  | -0.30** | -0.04**               | -0.08**      | -0.09**       | -0.34**          | 0.53**                     | -0.03**                | -0.21**                            |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.05*  | 0.03**  | 0.18**  | 2.2 x10 <sup>-3</sup> | 0.06**       | 0.21**        | 0.18**           | -0.06*                     | 0.03**                 | 0.32**                             |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -0.02   | -0.24** | 0.12**  | 0.04**                | 0.03**       | -0.12**       | 0.16**           | -0.47**                    | 1.2x10 <sup>-3</sup>   | -0.10**                            |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -0.67** | -0.01   | -0.62** | -0.09**               | -0.27**      | -0.63**       | -0.72**          | 0.65**                     | -0.01**                | -0.33**                            |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.20**  | -0.17** | 0.29**  | 0.08**                | 0.05**       | 0.11**        | 0.37**           | 0.48**                     | 0.03**                 | 0.19**                             |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.47**  | 0.18**  | 0.34**  | 0.01**                | 0.22**       | 0.52**        | 0.35**           | -1.13**                    | -0.02**                | 0.14**                             |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -1.39** | -0.23** | -0.93** | -0.19**               | 0.30**       | -1.17**       | -1.12**          | -0.44**                    | 0.08**                 | 0.58**                             |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.95**  | 0.42**  | 0.47**  | 0.08**                | -0.02*       | 0.80**        | 0.54**           | -0.57**                    | -0.06**                | -0.34**                            |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.44**  | -0.19** | 0.47**  | 0.11**                | -0.28**      | 0.28**        | 0.57**           | 1.01**                     | -0.02**                | -0.24**                            |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -0.35** | -0.28** | 0.33**  | -0.02**               | 0.13**       | 0.05**        | 0.31**           | -1.07**                    | 1.0x10 <sup>-4</sup>   | 0.18**                             |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 0.09**  | 0.32**  | -0.18** | -0.09**               | -0.11**      | 0.14**        | -0.27**          | -0.34**                    | -0.03**                | -0.26**                            |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.26**  | -0.04** | -0.16** | 0.11**                | -0.01*       | -0.20**       | -0.04**          | 1.41**                     | 0.03**                 | 0.08**                             |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 1.04**  | 0.11**  | 0.69**  | -0.01**               | 0.10**       | 0.89**        | 0.68**           | -0.53**                    | -0.04**                | 0.09**                             |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -0.45** | 0.07**  | -0.33** | 0.08**                | -0.11**      | -0.26**       | -0.25**          | 0.44**                     | 0.04**                 | -0.14**                            |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -0.59** | -0.18** | -0.36** | -0.06**               | 0.01         | -0.54**       | -0.42**          | 0.10**                     | 2.5x10 <sup>-3*</sup>  | 0.05**                             |

\* and \*\* SCA estimates are significantly different from zero at >SE and >2SE, respectively.

TCC total carotenoid content; Lut lutein; Zea zeaxanthin;  $\beta$ -Car  $\beta$ -carotene;  $\beta$ -Cry  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin;  $\alpha$ -Xan  $\alpha$ -xanthophyll.

**Table S5** Magnitude of heterosis over mid-parent (mpH) and better-parent (bpH) for yield-related traits of sweet-waxy corn hybrids evaluated across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Hybrids   | Hey      |          | Hed     |         | Hel     |         | WSS      |          | Ph      |         | Hd      |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
|           | mpH      | bpH      | mpH     | bpH     | mpH     | bpH     | mpH      | bpH      | mpH     | bpH     | mpH     | bpH      |
| ILS1×ILW1 | 227.77** | 202.89** | 41.41** | 29.85** | 55.93** | 52.74** | -4.17*   | -6.87*   | 49.46** | 25.10** | -4.80** | -6.51**  |
| ILS1×ILW2 | 147.99** | 142.30** | 25.08** | 19.32** | 38.55** | 33.54** | -1.10    | -9.11**  | 50.08** | 41.36** | -7.32** | -10.09** |
| ILS1×ILW3 | 150.50** | 110.73** | 27.19** | 27.01** | 41.13** | 28.48** | -4.05*   | -13.37** | 62.18** | 46.77** | -5.80** | -8.90**  |
| ILS2×ILW1 | 204.76** | 141.89** | 36.59** | 24.27** | 49.97** | 41.30** | -9.82**  | -18.12** | 59.30** | 34.59** | -4.65** | -6.08**  |
| ILS2×ILW2 | 123.93** | 81.43**  | 21.56** | 14.85** | 35.95** | 30.13** | -7.17**  | -19.95** | 49.32** | 42.19** | -6.21** | -8.75**  |
| ILS2×ILW3 | 80.57**  | 76.31**  | 25.35** | 23.91** | 23.88** | 21.87** | -6.12**  | -20.36** | 59.12** | 45.51** | -5.23** | -8.08**  |
| ILS3×ILW1 | 151.20** | 100.52** | 34.75** | 18.73** | 42.12** | 34.46** | -11.36** | -14.17** | 50.57** | 30.80** | -2.03*  | -3.60*   |
| ILS3×ILW2 | 113.18** | 73.75**  | 21.10** | 10.64** | 39.62** | 34.20** | -10.52** | -18.05** | 48.24** | 45.78** | -3.98** | -6.67**  |
| ILS3×ILW3 | 99.83**  | 96.60**  | 26.69** | 20.90** | 23.74** | 21.22** | -5.47**  | -14.94** | 49.19** | 40.68** | -2.86*  | -5.87**  |
| ILS4×ILW1 | 101.05** | 41.90*   | 31.93** | 14.96** | 35.18** | 15.23** | -10.49** | -16.06** | 24.11*  | 18.25*  | -7.33** | -9.08**  |
| ILS4×ILW2 | 90.23**  | 36.47    | 18.75** | 7.24*   | 32.11** | 14.20*  | -7.01**  | -17.35** | 31.53** | 11.17   | -6.19** | -9.08**  |
| ILS4×ILW3 | 75.54**  | 46.38*   | 22.55** | 15.53** | 18.09*  | 7.68    | -5.45**  | -17.38** | 27.88** | 12.13   | -6.31** | -9.48**  |
| ILS5×ILW1 | 157.49** | 104.71** | 34.68** | 20.40** | 44.55** | 31.95** | -1.56    | -5.38*   | 46.92** | 25.53** | -3.42** | -5.88**  |
| ILS5×ILW2 | 121.46** | 79.74**  | 21.15** | 12.38** | 42.25** | 31.84** | -7.78**  | -16.12** | 50.25** | 44.95** | -4.82** | -8.37**  |
| ILS5×ILW3 | 97.98**  | 93.75**  | 25.68** | 21.86** | 28.72** | 26.46** | -4.39*   | -14.54** | 49.49** | 38.40** | -4.26** | -8.11**  |
| ILS6×ILW1 | 71.66*   | 36.48    | 19.59** | -0.79   | 35.08** | 24.17** | -22.31** | -28.80** | 49.43** | 31.23** | -8.59** | -10.23** |
| ILS6×ILW2 | 140.49** | 95.19**  | 16.09** | -0.43   | 34.68** | 25.71** | -11.98** | -23.43** | 56.95** | 56.30** | -7.46** | -10.23** |
| ILS6×ILW3 | 97.93**  | 93.70**  | 18.87** | 6.13    | 21.57** | 20.34** | -10.00** | -22.99** | 51.67** | 44.75** | -5.34** | -8.45**  |
| ILS7×ILW1 | 190.80** | 150.53** | 39.42** | 23.25** | 47.33** | 35.86** | -10.13** | -12.96** | 42.72** | 31.43** | -6.48** | -7.42**  |
| ILS7×ILW2 | 180.19** | 147.09** | 23.52** | 13.24** | 33.33** | 24.86** | -7.90**  | -15.63** | 35.18** | 28.83** | -5.87** | -7.96**  |
| ILS7×ILW3 | 116.44** | 100.49** | 27.54** | 22.15** | 22.44** | 21.63** | -1.03    | -10.93** | 46.19** | 45.37** | -3.63** | -6.07**  |
| ILS8×ILW1 | 256.07** | 211.91** | 36.64** | 20.27** | 42.82** | 41.68** | -11.26** | -15.93** | 69.49** | 42.41** | -6.57** | -6.67**  |
| ILS8×ILW2 | 231.21** | 175.55** | 25.12** | 14.19** | 31.44** | 30.31** | -3.15*   | -13.09** | 45.04** | 37.21** | -6.37** | -7.63**  |
| ILS8×ILW3 | 166.89** | 91.13**  | 24.25** | 18.43** | 25.38** | 17.20** | -5.03**  | -16.23** | 52.02** | 38.14** | -5.24** | -6.80**  |

\* and \*\* heterosis estimates are significantly different from zero at >SE and >2SE, respectively.

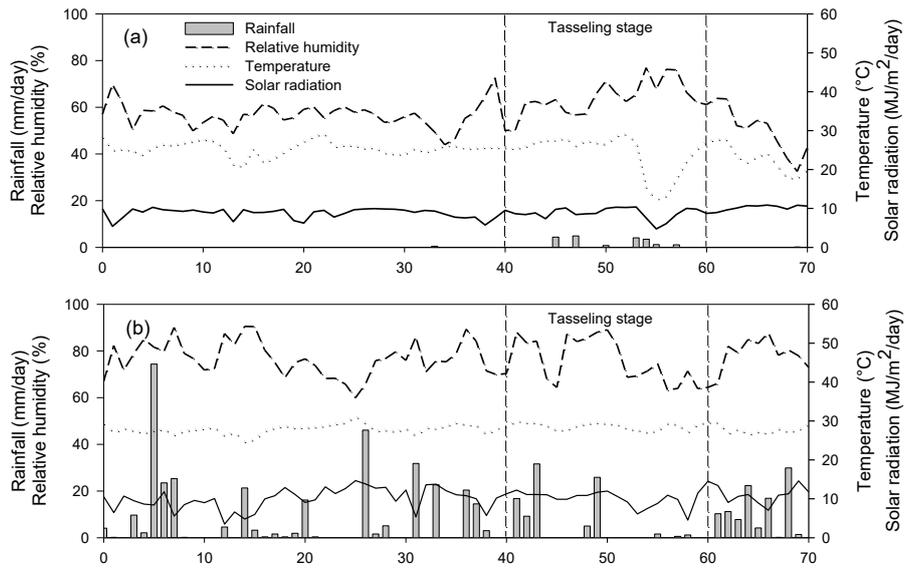
Hey husked ear yield; Hed husked ear diameter; Hel husked ear length; WSS water soluble solid; Ph plant height; Hd harvest date.

**Table S6** Magnitude of heterosis over mid-parent (mpH) and better-parent (bpH) for carotenoids of sweet-waxy corn hybrids evaluated across two seasons between 2021 and 2022.

| Hybrids                            | TCC      |          | Lut      |          | Zea      |          | β-Car   |          | β-Cry    |          | α-Xan    |          | β-Car/β-Cry |          | β-Cry+Zea |          | β-Cry/Zea |          | β-Car/(β-Cry+Zea) |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                                    | mpH      | bpH      | mpH      | bpH      | mpH      | bpH      | mpH     | bpH      | mpH      | bpH      | mpH      | bpH      | mpH         | bpH      | mpH       | bpH      | mpH       | bpH      | mpH               | bpH      |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 14.39**  | 5.93     | -15.26   | -34.14** | 34.84**  | 24.17**  | 21.02** | 7.29**   | -67.36** | -70.73** | 17.95**  | 13.45**  | 221.74**    | 175.56** | 31.41**   | 27.20**  | -15.53    | -22.54*  | -80.86**          | -83.69** |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 7.62*    | 5.82     | 72.53**  | 33.90**  | -49.99** | -61.96** | -3.25   | -13.14** | -28.22** | -37.23** | -3.25    | -10.79** | 25.90       | 18.41    | -38.91**  | -51.78** | 96.49**   | 56.83**  | 105.69**          | 30.83    |
| ILS <sub>1</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -5.59    | -20.72** | -1.36    | -11.11   | -21.74** | -44.93** | 14.81** | 11.80**  | -69.47** | -72.58** | -14.66** | -30.99** | 206.77**    | 187.30** | -11.99*   | -33.11** | 7.29      | -15.06   | -74.25**          | -80.36** |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 30.83**  | 12.16**  | 5.81     | -25.71** | 88.32**  | 65.45**  | 76.96** | 19.89**  | -56.48** | -63.69** | 58.29**  | 27.41**  | 263.47**    | 118.19** | 85.60**   | 52.30**  | 4.70      | -23.29*  | -83.48**          | -88.67** |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 11.75**  | 4.36     | 84.19**  | 29.17**  | -29.15** | -35.60** | 46.62** | 15.63**  | -47.93** | -57.54** | 18.76**  | 5.82     | 171.14**    | 78.86**  | -12.33*   | -13.91*  | 161.48**  | 153.10** | -21.09            | -54.87** |
| ILS <sub>2</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 22.45**  | 10.82*   | 23.40*   | -2.22    | 1.24     | -17.02*  | 58.32** | 17.52**  | -70.26** | -75.15** | 9.85*    | 6.28     | 328.22**    | 166.70** | 16.19*    | 8.43     | 27.98*    | -15.18   | -79.50**          | -79.55** |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 5.31     | 2.95     | 39.95**  | 29.91**  | 4.15     | -7.65    | 28.18** | 9.98**   | -76.58** | -80.63** | 19.48**  | 8.01*    | 363.96**    | 252.46** | 10.90     | -2.58    | -6.63     | -19.07   | -89.11**          | -93.33** |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -12.46** | -21.80** | 72.35**  | 59.70**  | -63.08** | -66.76** | -5.97   | -12.60** | 55.69**  | 25.94*   | 3.10     | 1.28     | -40.29      | -45.46*  | -47.16**  | -52.01** | 80.98**   | 23.50*   | 196.11**          | 60.97**  |
| ILS <sub>3</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -23.47** | -40.58** | 11.04    | 0.31     | -42.21** | -53.03** | 7.11    | 5.89*    | -15.79   | -30.22** | -17.28** | -29.46** | 4.78        | -14.29   | -26.54**  | -36.31** | 12.88     | 10.27    | -23.82            | -38.68*  |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -3.11    | -9.31*   | 20.98*   | 10.96    | 13.76    | -7.56    | 8.73    | -7.78**  | -74.02** | -77.80** | 16.98**  | 0.16     | 260.66**    | 179.64** | 12.26*    | -7.63    | -21.44    | -34.55** | -89.45**          | -93.67** |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -9.80**  | -12.31** | 83.00**  | 67.56**  | -53.07** | -53.29** | -1.96   | -7.68**  | -7.83    | -23.04*  | 16.85**  | 11.81**  | -5.54       | -11.36   | -37.80**  | -39.12** | 74.66**   | 16.26    | 76.09**           | -5.11    |
| ILS <sub>4</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -17.58** | -31.43** | -13.17   | -20.63** | -25.24** | -33.68** | 20.74** | 17.75**  | -53.59** | -60.26** | -19.25** | -27.30** | 115.62**    | 80.52**  | -9.48     | -15.80*  | 5.66      | 3.14     | -67.06**          | -74.58** |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -30.38** | -37.42** | 17.01    | 11.24    | -16.62** | -26.07** | -10.21* | -18.76** | -71.56** | -73.55** | -2.02    | -10.52** | 180.72**    | 150.08** | -14.75**  | -23.98** | -7.16     | -16.59   | -75.72**          | -82.30** |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -24.09** | -37.12** | 77.33**  | 68.27**  | -62.92** | -66.61** | -8.30   | -19.31** | 25.82*   | 13.96    | 6.45     | 3.43     | -28.68      | -35.69   | -46.92**  | -52.53** | 95.98**   | 36.82**  | 270.83**          | 118.23** |
| ILS <sub>5</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -28.39** | -47.66** | 22.42*   | 8.14     | -32.59** | -45.20** | 0.07    | -4.68    | -0.98    | -7.76    | -6.45    | -20.95** | -10.82      | -12.73   | -21.76**  | -33.15** | 9.28      | 2.61     | 7.98              | -2.38    |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | -13.10** | -14.44** | -2.94    | -10.63   | -13.36   | -15.05   | -9.12*  | -9.99**  | 1.44     | -3.73    | -9.19*   | -13.22** | 143.09**    | 126.19** | -12.12*   | -13.09*  | 29.79*    | 21.25*   | 221.52**          | 193.59** |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 20.21**  | 11.18*   | 103.34** | 86.90**  | -31.33** | -43.54** | 2.42    | -17.89** | 18.19    | 9.19     | 29.97**  | 20.58**  | -26.69      | -43.52*  | -21.38**  | -35.85** | 91.21**   | 50.35**  | 247.66**          | 155.15** |
| ILS <sub>6</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 7.30*    | -14.31** | -10.62   | -18.61*  | -4.58    | -28.27** | 19.24** | 2.47     | -65.22** | -66.93** | -7.18    | -24.55** | 178.69**    | 137.31** | 3.26      | -19.04** | 16.39     | -6.45    | -70.87**          | -80.99** |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 0.13     | -5.93    | -23.70*  | -30.77** | 41.39**  | 31.57**  | 7.21    | 0.05     | -54.30** | -57.04** | 13.77**  | 4.73     | 118.90**    | 90.65**  | 31.56**   | 22.53**  | -11.84    | -20.10*  | -64.13*           | -72.96** |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | 2.97     | -11.24*  | 61.91**  | 47.16**  | -38.98** | -53.22** | -11.90* | -32.47** | -26.53*  | -29.01** | 8.72*    | -9.99**  | 12.17       | -17.78   | -31.20**  | -47.26** | 90.11**   | 53.23**  | 157.33**          | 126.68** |
| ILS <sub>7</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | 0.60     | -24.11** | -22.97*  | -39.81** | -15.14*  | -39.89** | 20.76** | -1.29    | -65.47** | -67.60** | -18.70** | -39.85** | 205.72**    | 145.46** | -3.77     | -28.82** | 20.71     | -5.34    | -72.65**          | -83.76   |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>1</sub> | 8.74*    | 2.44     | -10.89   | -23.89** | 80.64**  | 51.43**  | 18.74** | -13.25** | -61.95** | -62.09** | 42.05**  | 20.01**  | 224.47**    | 122.70** | 64.48**   | 32.77**  | 0.47      | -34.31** | -79.33**          | -82.68** |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>2</sub> | -20.51** | -23.24** | 63.55**  | 39.46**  | -46.29** | -48.56** | 18.29** | 3.49     | -30.86** | -33.03** | 7.07     | 0.90     | 82.33*      | 45.26*   | -30.04**  | -30.24** | 262.27**  | 193.25** | 104.62**          | 29.04    |
| ILS <sub>8</sub> ×ILW <sub>3</sub> | -33.53** | -45.01** | -44.14** | -44.81** | -16.60*  | -28.47** | 16.59** | -5.01*   | -65.24** | -65.29** | -29.36** | -35.48** | 214.81**    | 129.25** | -6.84     | -11.30   | 43.73**   | -12.66   | -67.93**          | -75.19** |

\* and \*\* Heterosis estimates are significantly different from zero at  $>SE$  and  $>2SE$ , respectively.

TCC total carotenoid content; Lut lutein; Zea zeaxanthin;  $\beta$ -Car  $\beta$ -carotene;  $\beta$ -Cry  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin;  $\alpha$ -Xan  $\alpha$ -xanthophyll.



**Figure S1.** Total rainfall, relative humidity, temperature, and solar radiation during crop growth at the Experimental Field, Thammasat University, Thailand in the dry season of 2021/22 (a) and the rainy season of 2022 (b).