WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nucleic acid construct comprising a heterologous plant operable promoter operatively linked to a nucleic acid fragment selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid fragment comprising two of nucleic acid fragments (i), (ii) and (iii) linked together and

(b) a nucleic acid fragment comprising nucleic acid fragments (i), (ii) and (iii) linked together, wherein

nucleic acid fragment (i) is:

(A) substantially homologous to nucleotides 1 to 514 of a gene encoding the AV1 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:39 and that is substantially homologous to nucleotides 3 to 483 of a gene encoding the AC5 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:49; or

(B) substantially homologous to nucleotides 227 to 476 of a gene encoding the AV1 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:39 and that is substantially homologous to nucleotides 41 to 290 of a gene encoding the AC5 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:49;

nucleic acid fragment (ii) is:

(C) substantially homologous to nucleotides 4 to 405 of a gene encoding the AC2 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:43 and that is substantially homologous to nucleotides 1 to 376 of a gene encoding the AC3 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:45; or

(D) substantially homologous to nucleotides 156 to 405 of a gene encoding the AC2 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:43 and that is substantially homologous to nucleotides 8 to 257 of a gene encoding the AC3 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:45; and

nucleic acid fragment (iii) is:

(E) substantially homologous to nucleotides 324 to 932 of a gene encoding the AC1 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:41 and that is substantially homologous to nucleotides 167 to 300 of a gene

encoding the AC4 protein having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:47;

and wherein substantially homologous is at least 94% sequence identity.

2. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, which further comprises the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) operatively linked to a heterologous plant operable terminator.

3. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) is operatively linked in a sense orientation to the promoter and is further linked to the same nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in an antisense orientation.

4. The nucleic acid construct of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) is operatively linked in an antisense orientation to the promoter and is further linked to the same nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in a sense orientation.

5. The nucleic acid construct of claim 3 or 4, wherein the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in the sense orientation is linked by a spacer nucleotide sequence to the same nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in the antisense orientation.

6. The nucleic acid construct of claim 3 or 4, wherein the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in the sense orientation is linked by an intron to the nucleic acid fragment (a) or (b) in the antisense orientation.

7. The nucleic acid construct of claim 6, wherein the intron is removed during transcription of the nucleic acid construct.

8. A vector comprising the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 1 to 7.

9. A transgenic plant cell comprising the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 1 to 7, preferably a transgenic Jatropha plant cell, more preferably a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant cell.

10. A transgenic plant seed comprising the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 1 to 7, preferably a transgenic Jatropha plant seed, more preferably a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant seed.

11. A transgenic plant comprising the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 1 to 7, preferably a transgenic Jatropha plant, more preferably a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant.

12. A transgenic Jatropha plant having resistance to a geminivirus, preferably a geminivirus causing mosaic disease, wherein the resistance is achieved by introducing into a cell of the plant the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3 to 7 that when expressed produces two or more dsRNA molecules that suppress or down regulate four or more genes of the geminivirus.

13. The transgenic plant of claim 12, wherein each of the dsRNA molecules is an ihpRNA.

14. The transgenic plant of claim 12 or 13, wherein the geminivirus causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease and the transgenic plant is a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant.

15. The transgenic plant of claim 14, wherein the four or more genes of the geminivirus that causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease are selected from the group consisting a gene encoding the AV1 protein, a gene encoding the AC5 protein, a gene encoding the AC2 protein, a gene encoding the AC3 protein, a gene encoding the AC1 protein and a gene encoding the AC4 protein.

16. A method of preparing a transgenic Jatropha plant having resistance to a geminivirus, preferably a geminivirus causing mosaic disease, wherein expression of four or more genes of the geminivirus is down regulated in the transgenic plant, the method comprises stably incorporating the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3 to 7 in the genome of a plant, wherein the nucleic acid construct encodes two or more dsRNA molecules that when expressed in the transgenic plant down regulates or suppresses expression of four or more genes of the geminivirus.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each of the dsRNA molecules is an ihpRNA.

18. The method of claim 16 or 17, wherein the geminivirus causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease and the transgenic plant is a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the four or more genes of the geminivirus that causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease are selected from the group consisting a gene encoding the AV1 protein, a gene encoding the AC5 protein, a gene encoding the AC2 protein, a gene encoding the AC3 protein, a gene encoding the AC1 protein and a gene encoding the AC4 protein.

20. A method of conferring resistance to geminivirus, preferably a geminivirus causing mosaic disease, in a Jatropha plant, the method comprising expressing the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3 to 7 in the plant, wherein the nucleic acid construct encodes two or more dsRNA molecules that when expressed in the transgenic plant down regulates or suppresses expression of four or more genes of the geminivirus.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein each of the dsRNA molecules is an ihpRNA.

22. The method of claim 20 or 21, wherein the geminivirus causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease and the transgenic plant is a transgenic *Jatropha curcas* plant.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the four or more genes of the geminivirus that causes *Jatropha curcas* mosaic disease are selected from the group consisting a gene encoding the AV1 protein, a gene encoding the AC5 protein, a gene encoding the AC2 protein, a gene encoding the AC3 protein, a gene encoding the AC1 protein and a gene encoding the AC4 protein.