17. The method of claim 16, wherein the *Jatropha* species is *Jatropha curcas*.

18. A transgenic plant cell containing within its genome the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3-7.

19. The transgenic plant cell of claim 18, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of a *Jatropha* species, castor bean, palm oil, coconut, peanut, rapeseeds, soybean, sunflower, cassava, tomato, beans, cotton, cucumber, cabbage, barley, oats, wheat, corn and rice.

20. The transgenic plant cell of claim 19, wherein the *Jatropha* plant is *Jatropha curcas*.

21. A curcin deficient transgenic plant containing within its genome the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3-7.

22. The curcin deficient transgenic plant of claim 21, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of a *Jatropha* species, castor bean, palm oil, coconut, peanut, rapeseeds, soybean, sunflower, cassava, tomato, beans, cotton, cucumber, cabbage, barley, oats, wheat, corn and rice.

23. The curcin deficient transgenic plant of claim 22, wherein the *Jatropha* species is *Jatropha curcas*.

24. A method of producing a transgenic plant cell comprising transforming cells of the plant with the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3-~~7~~10.

25. A method of producing a curcin deficient transgenic *Jatropha* plant comprising transforming cells of a plant with the nucleic acid construct of any one of claims 3-7 and regenerating a curcin deficient transgenic plant from the transformed plant cells.