WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of increasing seed oil accumulation in Jatropha comprising reducing the activity of a patatin-domain triacylglycerol lipase encoded by a *sugar-dependent-1 (SDP1)* gene in a Jatropha plant to cause an increased seed oil accumulation, wherein the reduction in activity is achieved by an RNAi molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3, and wherein the reduction in *SDP1* expression levels is at least 20-fold compared to wild type.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the lipase has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the lipase is encoded by a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 874-3450 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 874-3447 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. The method of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the activity of the lipase is reduced in seeds of the Jatropha plant.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the reduction in activity in Jatropha seeds is accomplished using a Jatropha seed specific promoter.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the Jatropha seed specific promoter is a Jatropha *curcas SDP1* promoter.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the Jatropha *curcas SDP1* promoter has the nucleotide sequence set forth in nucleotides 1-722 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or promoter functional fragment thereof.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the seed oil accumulation is increased by about 13% to about 30%.

9. An isolated nucleic acid consisting of nucleotides 3161-3533 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the nucleic acid, when used in RNAi reduces expression of the *sugar-dependent 1* (*SDP1*) gene.

10. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid consists of nucleotides 3161-3528 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 9 or 10 which further comprises a plant operable promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid.

12. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein the promoter is a seed specific promoter.

13. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 12, wherein the seed specific promoter is a Jatropha *curcas SDP1* promoter.

14. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the Jatropha *curcas SDP1* promoter comprises nucleotides 1-722 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. An isolated nucleic acid consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ NO: 3 wherein the nucleic acid used in RNAi reduces expression of the *sugar-dependent 1* (*SDP1*) gene.

16. A nucleic acid construct or a vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 9-15.

17. A transgenic plant cell or transgenic plant having the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 9-15 stably integrated in its genome.

18. A method of making a transgenic plant cell comprising introducing the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 9-15 into a plant cell and selecting a transgenic plant cell in which the isolated nucleic acid is stably integrated in its genome.

19. A method of making a transgenic plant comprising introducing the isolated nucleic acid of any one of claims 9-15 into a plant cell, selecting a transgenic plant cell in which the

isolated nucleic acid is stably integrated in its genome and regenerating a transgenic plant from the selected transgenic plant cell.

20. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a heterologous plant operable promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a sugar-dependent 1 protein consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

21. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 20 wherein the nucleic acid encoding the sugar-dependent 1 protein consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 874-3450 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or nucleotides 874-3447 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 20 or 21, wherein the promoter is a heterologous seed-specific promoter.