

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 January 2011 (13.01.2011)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2011/005998 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
A01H 1/00 (2006.01) *A01H 3/00* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2010/041415

(22) International Filing Date:
8 July 2010 (08.07.2010)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/223,942 8 July 2009 (08.07.2009) US

(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): **THE CURATORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI** [US/US]; 340 A Bond Life Sciences Center, Columbia, MO 65211-7310 (US). **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** [US/US]; 1815 N. University Street, Peroria, IL 61604 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BILYEYU, Kristin** [US/US]; 5778 E Sing Drive, Columbia, MO 65202 (US). **SHANNON, Grover** [US/US]; 1708 Allison Street, Kennett, MO 63857 (US). **LEE, Jeong-dong** [KR/US]; C/o Office Of Technology Management, Room 340a, Christopher S Bond Life Science Center, Columbia, MO 65211 (US). **PHAM, Tung, Anh** [VN/US]; 1133 Ashland Road, Apt 915, Columbia, MO 65201 (US).

(74) Agent: **CLEVELAND, Dan, Jr.**; Lathrop & Gage LLP, Suite 201, 4845 Pearl East City, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

— with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))

(54) Title: METHOD TO DEVELOP HIGH OLEIC ACID SOYBEANS USING CONVENTIONAL SOYBEAN BREEDING TECHNIQUES

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a soybean plant with mutations in FAD2-1A and FAD2-1B. Moreover, disclosure is directed to seeds from said plants with altered ratios of monosaturated and polyunsaturated fats. In particular, the disclosure is directed to plants which exhibit elevated levels of oleic acid.



WO 2011/005998 A1

METHOD TO DEVELOP HIGH OLEIC ACID SOYBEANS USING CONVENTIONAL SOYBEAN BREEDING TECHNIQUES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims benefit of priority to United States Provisional Application Serial No. 61/223,942 filed July 8, 2009.

SEQUENCE LISTING

[0002] This application is accompanied by a sequence listing both on paper and in a computer readable form that accurately reproduces the sequences described herein.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Plant oils are used in a variety of applications. Novel vegetable oil compositions and improved approaches to obtain oil compositions, from biosynthetic or natural plant sources, are needed. Depending upon the intended oil use, various different fatty acid compositions are desired. Plants, especially species which synthesize large amounts of oils in seeds, are an important source of oils both for edible and industrial uses.

[0004] Oleic acid is a monounsaturated omega-9 fatty acid found in various animal and vegetable sources. It is considered one of the healthier sources of fat in the diet and is commonly used as a replacement for fat sources that are high in saturated fats.

[0005] Diets in which fat consumption are high in oleic acid have been shown to reduce overall levels of cholesterol, arteriosclerosis and cardiovascular disease. Specifically, oleic acid has been shown to raise levels of high-density lipoproteins (HDLs) known as “good cholesterol”, while lowering low-density lipoproteins (LDLs) also known as the “bad” cholesterol. Thus, the development of new and inexpensive sources of foods comprising healthier forms of fatty acid is desirable.

[0006] Plants synthesize fatty acids via a common metabolic pathway known as the fatty acid synthetase (FAS) pathway. Beta-ketoacyl-ACP (acyl carrier

protein moiety) synthases are important rate-limiting enzymes in the FAS of plant cells and exist in several versions. Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase I catalyzes chain elongation to palmitoyl-ACP (C16:0), whereas Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase II catalyzes chain elongation to stearoyl-ACP (C18:0). Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase IV is a variant of Beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase II, and can also catalyze chain elongation to 18:0-ACP. In soybeans, the major products of FAS are 16:0-ACP and 18:0-ACP. The desaturation of 18:0-ACP to form 18:1-ACP is catalyzed by a plastid-localized soluble delta-9 desaturase (also referred to as "stearoyl-ACP desaturase").

[0007] The products of the plastidial FAS and delta-9 desaturase, 16:0-ACP, 18:0-ACP, and 18:1-ACP, are hydrolyzed by specific thioesterases (FAT). Plant thioesterases can be classified into two gene families based on sequence homology and substrate preference. The first family, FATA, includes long chain acyl-ACP thioesterases having activity primarily on 18:1-ACP. Enzymes of the second family, FATB, commonly utilize 16:0-ACP (palmitoyl-ACP), 18:0-ACP (stearoyl-ACP), and 18:1-ACP (oleoyl-ACP). Such thioesterases have an important role in determining chain length during de novo fatty acid biosynthesis in plants, and thus these enzymes are useful in the provision of various modifications of fatty acyl compositions, particularly with respect to the relative proportions of various fatty acyl groups that are present in seed storage oils.

[0008] The products of the FATA and FATB reactions, the free fatty acids, leave the plastids and are converted to their respective acyl-CoA esters. Acyl-CoAs are substrates for the lipid-biosynthesis pathway (Kennedy Pathway), which is located in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). This pathway is responsible for membrane lipid formation as well as the biosynthesis of triacylglycerols, which constitute the seed oil. In the ER there are additional membrane-bound desaturases, which can further desaturate 18:1 to polyunsaturated fatty acids.

[0009] The soybean genome possesses two seed-specific isoforms of a delta-12 desaturase *FAD2*, designated *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B*, which differ at only 24 amino acid residues. The genes encoding *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* are designated Glyma10g42470 on Linkage Group O and Glyma 20g24530 on Linkage Group I on the soybean genome sequence, respectively (Glyma1.0, Soybean Genome Project, DoE Joint Genome Institute). *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* are found in the ER where they can

further desaturate oleic acid to polyunsaturated fatty acids. The delta-12 desaturase catalyzes the insertion of a double bond into oleic acid (18:1), forming linoleic acid (18:2) which results in a consequent reduction of oleic acid levels. A delta-15 desaturase (*FAD3*) catalyzes the insertion of a double bond into linoleic acid (18:2), forming linolenic acid (18:3).

Table 1. Characteristics of the major Fatty Acids

Carbons:Double Bonds	Name	Saturation
16:0	Palmitic Acid	Saturated
18:0	Stearic Acid	Saturated
18:1	Oleic Acid	monounsaturated
18:2	Linoleic Acid	ω -6 polyunsaturated
18:3	α -Linolenic Acid	ω -3 polyunsaturated

[0010] The designations (18:2), (18:1), (18:3), etc., refer to the number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain and the number of double bonds therein, Table 1. As used herein, the designations sometimes take the place of the corresponding fatty acid common name. For example, oleic acid (18:1) contains 18 carbon atoms and 1 double bond, and is sometimes referred to as simply “18:1”.

[0011] While previous research has demonstrated the important role of the *FAD2-1A* gene for increasing oleic acid, no reports have demonstrated a direct effect of the *FAD2-1B* gene on oleic acid accumulation. Soybean is a commodity crop that provides a major component of the fats and oils in the American diet. Soybean is considered an oilseed, and it typically contains about 20% oleic acid as part of the fatty acid profile in the seed oil.

[0012] Soybean oil is used by the food industry in a variety of food products including cooking oils, salad dressings, sandwich spreads, margarine, bread, mayonnaise, non-dairy coffee creamers and snack foods. Soybean oil is also used in industrial markets such as biodiesel and biolube markets.

[0013] For many oil applications, low saturated fatty acid levels are desirable. Saturated fatty acids have high melting points which are undesirable in many applications. When used as a feedstock or fuel, saturated fatty acids cause clouding at low temperatures, and confer poor cold flow properties such as pour points and cold filter plugging points to the fuel. Oil products containing low saturated fatty acid levels

may be preferred by consumers and the food industry because they are perceived as healthier and/or may be labeled as "low in saturated fat" in accordance with FDA guidelines. In addition, low saturate oils reduce or eliminate the need to winterize the oil for food applications such as salad oils. In biodiesel and lubricant applications, oils with low saturated fatty acid levels confer improved cold flow properties and do not cloud at low temperatures.

[0014] Various technologies for generating mid to high oleic acid levels in soybean plants are known. For example, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0214516 discloses a method for obtaining soybean plants that have moderately increased levels of oleic acid. However, this technology requires the genetic modification of soybean plants through the introduction of a transgene by transgenesis.

[0015] While transgenic soybean lines have been generated that produce soybean oil containing mid to high levels of oleic acid, non-genetically modified (non-GMO) soybean plant lines that produce seed with mid to high oleic acid content is desirable.

SUMMARY

[0016] The presently disclosed instrumentalities overcome the problems outlined above and advance the art by providing a method to create and select conventional non-GMO soybean lines containing greater than around 20% and up to around 85% oleic acid in soybean seed oil with up to a four-fold increase over the levels produced by commodity soybeans. The instrumentalities described herein, demonstrate the ability to efficiently incorporate an enhanced oil quality trait into elite varieties of soybean plants without the expensive testing and evaluation used in traditional soybean breeding.

[0017] The presently disclosed instrumentalities demonstrate that mutation in the *FAD2-1B* gene alone resulted in very minor increases in oleic acid levels. However, combinations of mutations in the *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* genes resulted in dramatic increases in oleic acid level of the seed oil.

[0018] In an embodiment, a soybean plant having one or more mutations in the *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* genes, wherein seed from said plant has about 75% to about 85% oleic acid content

[0019] In an embodiment a soybean plant expressing a mutated *FAD2-1B* gene encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 and expressing a mutated *FAD2-1A* gene encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 4 has seed with a modified fatty acid composition that is about 75% to about 85% oleic acid.

[0020] In an embodiment, a method of selecting soybean plants with seed having an oleic acid content of between about 65% to about 85%, said method comprising: crossing a first soybean plant having one or more mutations in a first polynucleotide sequence encoding a *FAD2-1A* gene SEQ ID NO: 5 with a second soybean plant having one or more mutations in a second polynucleotide sequence encoding a *FAD2-1B* gene SEQ ID NO: 6 is described.

[0021] In an embodiment, a nucleic acid encoding for expression of a mutated form of *FAD2-1B*, comprising: a sequence length of at least 72 nucleotides (24 amino acids) encoding for the expression of SEQ ID NO: 6 wherein the sequence includes at least one mutation selected from the group consisting of: a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 137, b. a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 143 is described.

[0022] In an embodiment, a soybean plant expressing a mutated *FAD2-1B* gene encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 has seed with a modified fatty acid composition that is about 22% to about 41% oleic acid.

[0023] In an embodiment, a soybean plant expressing a mutated *FAD2-1B* gene that results in a reduced activity of the *FAD2-1B* has seed with a modified fatty acid composition of oleic acid levels greater than about 20%.

[0024] In an embodiment, a transgenic soybean plant expressing a dominant negative form of *FAD2-1B* has seed with a modified fatty acid composition of oleic acid levels greater than 20% preferably between about 20% to 60% and most preferably between about 60% to 85%.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] FIGs. 1A and 1B are weblogo outputs showing amino acid conservation of fatty acid desaturase enzymes.

[0026] FIG. 2 is a bar graph illustrating the relative fatty acid levels as a function of total fatty acids of progeny from M23 x PI 283327 recombinant inbred lines.

[0027] FIG. 3 is a bar graph illustrating the oleic acid content as function of total fatty acids of parents and progeny from M23 x PI 283327 recombinant inbred lines.

[0028] FIG. 4 is a bar graph illustrating the oleic acid content as function of total fatty acids of progeny from 17D x PI 283327 F2 seeds.

[0029] FIG. 5 is a bar graph illustrating oleic acid levels as a function of total fatty acids of progeny from M23 x PI 567189A recombinant inbred lines.

[0030] FIG. 6 is a bar graph illustrating oleic acid levels as a function of total fatty acids of progeny from Jake x PI 283327 recombinant inbred lines.

[0031] FIG. 7 is a graphical representation of a melting curve analysis used to determine genotype of various *FAD2* alleles.

[0032] FIG. 8 is a bar graph illustrating oleic acid levels as a function of total fatty acids for population 1.

[0033] FIG. 9 is a bar graph illustrating oleic acid levels as a function of total fatty acids for population 2.

[0034] FIG. 10 is a bar graph illustrating oleic acid levels as a function of total fatty acids for population 3.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0035] As used herein, "allele" refers to any of one or more alternative forms of a gene locus, all of which alleles relate to a trait or characteristic. In a diploid cell or organism, the two alleles of a given gene occupy corresponding loci on a pair of homologous chromosomes.

[0036] As used herein, "*FAD2*" refers to a gene or encoded protein capable of catalyzing the insertion of a double bond into a fatty acyl moiety at the twelfth position counted from the carboxyl terminus. *FAD2* proteins are also referred to as "delta-12 desaturase" or "omega-6 desaturase". The term "*FAD2-1A*" is used to refer to a *FAD2* gene or protein defined as Glyma10g42470.1 in the Glyma1.0 whole genome sequence (<http://www.phytozome.net/soybean>) that is naturally expressed in a specific

manner in seed tissue, and the term "*FAD2-1B*" is used to refer a *FAD2* gene or protein defined as Glyma20g24530.1 in the Glyma1.0 whole genome sequence (<http://www.phytozome.net/soybean>) that is (a) a different gene from a *FAD2-1A* gene or protein and (b) is naturally expressed in multiple tissues, including the seed.

[0037] As used herein, "gene" refers to a nucleic acid sequence that encompasses a 5' promoter region associated with the expression of the gene product, any intron and exon regions and 3' or 5' untranslated regions associated with the expression of the gene product.

[0038] As used herein, "genotype" refers to the genetic constitution of a cell or organism.

[0039] As used herein, "phenotype" refers to the detectable characteristics of a cell or organism, which characteristics are the manifestation of gene expression

[0040] As used herein, non-genetically modified (non-GMO) means reasonably capable of occurring in nature. An organism is considered non-GMO if it has not been genetically engineered through the addition of exogenous, or recombinant nucleic acid, such as a transgene, to alter the genetic constitution of the organism.

[0041] As used herein, "crossing", as used herein, refers to the mating of two parent plants.

[0042] As used herein, "F1" refers to first generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0043] As used herein, "F2" refers to second generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0044] As used herein, "F3", as used herein, refers to third generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0045] As used herein, "F4", as used herein, refers to fourth generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0046] As used herein, "F5", as used herein, refers to fifth generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0047] As used herein, "F6", as used herein, refers to sixth generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0048] As used herein, "F7", as used herein, refers to seventh generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0049] As used herein, "F8", as used herein, refers to eighth generation progeny of the cross of two plants.

[0050] As used herein, a recombinant inbred line (RIL) is produced to form a permanent and stable quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping resource. In the first step of the development of RILs, two parental inbred lines are crossed (mated) together to form a uniformly heterozygous F1 generation. The F1 are intermated (or selfed) to form an F2 generation; most individuals in the F2 will contain recombinant chromosomes resulting from crossovers between the two purely parental chromosomes present in each F1 plant. The parental alleles are said to be segregating in the F2 generation, since it is a matter of chance just which of the three combinations of parental alleles will occur in a given F2 plant. Numerous individuals from the segregating F2 generation then serve as the founders of corresponding RILs. Each subsequent generation of a given RIL is formed by selfing in the previous generation and with single seed descent. In this manner each RIL, after several generations, will contain two identical copies of each chromosome, with most of them being recombinant. Each individual RIL will contain a different mix of recombinant and parental chromosomes, with a unique set of recombination breakpoint locations across the genome. Taken as a group, the set of RILs form a segregant QTL mapping population which can be stably regenerated year after year via single seed descent.

[0051] As used herein genotypic designations are as follows:

AABB – homozygous wild-type *FAD2-1A* and homozygous wild-type *FAD2-1B*;

aaBB – homozygous mutant *FAD2-1A* (*mFAD2-1A*) and homozygous wild-type *FAD2-1B*;

AAbb - homozygous wild-type *FAD2-1A* and homozygous mutant *FAD2-1B* (*mFAD2-1B*);

aabb - homozygous *mFAD2-1A* and homozygous *mFAD2-1B*

[0052] As used herein, the soybean plant lines designated "Jake" and "Williams 82" (W82) are conventional soybean varieties that have wild-type levels of oleic acid and wild-type alleles of *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B*.

[0053] As used herein a Plant Introduction (PI) or plant introduction line is a soybean line assumed to be inbred for multiple generations so that its progeny stably inherit all of the genes that it contains. Plant introduction lines can be local landraces,

cultivars, varieties, field collections of locally adapted lines, selections from any of these lines, or advanced breeding lines that have been inbred and have stabilized genomes. The National Plant Germplasm System maintains a collection of Glycine max lines referred to as Plant Introductions.

[0054] As used herein, a maturity group is an agreed-on industry division of groups of varieties based on zones in which they are adapted, primarily according to day length or latitude. They consist of very long day length varieties (Groups 000, 00, 0), and extend to very short day length varieties (Groups VII, VIII, IX, X).

[0055] A “fatty acid” is a carboxylic acid that generally has a long unbranched aliphatic carbon chain. The designations (18:2), (18:1), (18:3), etc., refer to the number of carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain and the number of double bonds therein, respectively. For example, oleic acid (18:1) contains 18 carbon atoms and 1 double bond. Exemplary fatty acids include:

omega-3 fatty acids such as:

alpha-linolenic acid ($\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH})_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$)

omega-6 fatty acids such as:

linoleic acid ($\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$)

omega-9 fatty acids such as:

oleic acid ($\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{CH}=\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2)_7\text{COOH}$)

and saturated fatty acids such as:

palmitic acid ($\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{14}\text{COOH}$)

stearic acid ($\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_8\text{COOH}$).

[0056] An isolated nucleic acid, as used herein, means a nucleic acid that is free of at least some of the contaminants associated with the nucleic acid or polypeptides occurring in a natural environment and that has a sequence that can encode for a gene.

[0057] An isolated nucleic acid can be further defined as among other things, a fragment or a part of the nucleic acid, such as a short sequence of bases from the nucleic acid of at least a length claimed, or a nucleic acid encoding for a truncated form, a modified form, or an isoform of the protein or polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid. An isolated nucleic acid may include DNA from which the introns are removed. An isolated nucleic acid may be under the control of an exogenous promoter.

[0058] As used herein, a mutation may be one or more nucleotide deletions, substitutions or insertions in a polynucleotide sequence. A mutation may be one or more of a missense, nonsense, frameshift, insertion or deletion.

[0059] As used herien, a missense mutation is a point mutation in which a single nucleotide is changed in a gene sequence, resulting in an amino acid change in the corresponding amino acid. A missense mutation may result in reduced activity of the protein encoded by the gene, or may result in a nonfunctional protein.

[0060] As used herein, a nonsense mutation is a mutation in a sequence of DNA that results in a premature stop codon, or a nonsense codon in the transcribed mRNA, and may result in a truncated protein product. Nonsense mutations may result in reduced activity of the protein encoded by the gene, or may result in a nonfunctional protein.

[0061] As used herein, a frameshift mutation is a genetic mutation in a polynucleotide sequence caused by insertion or deletion of a number of nucleotides that is not evenly divisible by three. Due to the triplet nature of gene expression by codons, the insertion or deletion can disrupt the reading frame, or the grouping of the codons, resulting in a different translated protein product than from the original non mutated gene. Frameshift mutations may result in reduced activity of the protein encoded by the gene, or may result in a nonfunctional protein.

[0062] As used herein, a deletion results in the loss of any number of nucleotides e.g. from a single base to an entire gene and surrounding polynucleotide sequences. A deletion mutation may result in reduced activity of the protein encoded by the gene, or may result in a nonfunctional protein.

[0063] As used herein, an insertion results in the addition of any number of nucleotides e.g. from a single base to many thousands of bases. An insertion mutation may result in reduced activity of the protein encoded by the gene, or may result in a nonfunctional protein.

[0064] As used herein, a loss of function mutation is a mutation that renders a protein incapable of carrying out its biological function.

[0065] Mutations in isolated polynucleic acids may be made by techniques known in the art such as, but not limited to, site directed mutagenesis.

[0066] Mutations may be induced by X-ray, gamma ray or fast neutron irradiation, and treatment with chemical mutagens such as the alkylating agents ethyl-methanesulfonate (EMS) or N-nitroso-N-methylurea NMU). In addition, natural genetic variation can result from mutations that arise from random DNA polymerase errors that occur during DNA replication of a plant genome. Natural genetic variation in plants may also result from activation of DNA repair mechanisms after exposure to natural sources of ionizing or nonionizing radiation.

[0067] Soybean plants can be crossed by either natural or mechanical techniques. Natural pollination occurs in soybeans either by self pollination or natural cross pollination, which typically is aided by pollinating organisms. In either natural or artificial crosses, flowering and flowering time are an important consideration. Soybean is a short-day plant, but there is considerable genetic variation for sensitivity to photoperiod. The critical day length for flowering ranges from about 13 h for genotypes adapted to tropical latitudes to 24 h for photoperiod-insensitive genotypes grown at higher latitudes. Soybeans seem to be insensitive to day length for 9 days after emergence. Photoperiods shorter than the critical day length are required for 7 to 26 days to complete flower induction.

[0068] Soybean flowers typically are self-pollinated on the day the corolla opens. The stigma is receptive to pollen about 1 day before anthesis and remains receptive for 2 days after anthesis, if the flower petals are not removed. Filaments of nine stamens are fused, and the one nearest the standard is free. The stamens form a ring below the stigma until about 1 day before anthesis, then their filaments begin to elongate rapidly and elevate the anthers around the stigma. The anthers dehisce on the day of anthesis, pollen grains fall on the stigma, and within 10 h the pollen tubes reach the ovary and fertilization is completed. Self-pollination occurs naturally in soybean with no manipulation of the flowers. For the crossing of two soybean plants, it is typically preferable, although not required, to utilize artificial hybridization. In artificial hybridization, the flower used as a female in a cross is manually cross pollinated prior to maturation of pollen from the flower, thereby preventing self fertilization, or alternatively, the male parts of the flower are emasculated using a technique known in the art. Techniques for emasculating the male parts of a soybean flower include, for

example, physical removal of the male parts, use of a genetic factor conferring male sterility, and application of a chemical gametocide to the male parts.

[0069] Either with or without emasculation of the female flower, hand pollination can be carried out by removing the stamens and pistil with a forceps from a flower of the male parent and gently brushing the anthers against the stigma of the female flower. Access to the stamens can be achieved by removing the front sepal and keel petals, or piercing the keel with closed forceps and allowing them to open to push the petals away. Brushing the anthers on the stigma causes them to rupture, and the highest percentage of successful crosses is obtained when pollen is clearly visible on the stigma. Pollen shed can be checked by tapping the anthers before brushing the stigma. Several male flowers may have to be used to obtain suitable pollen shed when conditions are unfavorable, or the same male may be used to pollinate several flowers with good pollen shed.

[0070] The plants of the present invention may be used in whole or in part. Preferred plant parts include reproductive or storage parts. The term "plant parts" as used herein includes, without limitation, seed, endosperm, ovule, pollen, roots, tubers, stems, leaves, stalks, fruit, berries, nuts, bark, pods, seeds and flowers. In an embodiment of the present invention, the plant part is a seed.

[0071] In one aspect, an isolated polynucleotide may comprise the nucleotide sequence of the PI 283327 *mFAD2-1B* (SEQ ID NO: 1) or fragment thereof. Alternatively, a polynucleotide may have substantial sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO: 1, for example, with at least 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO : 1 In another aspect, a polynucleotide may have substantial sequence similarity to the nucleotide sequence of PI 567189A *mFAD2-1B* (SEQ ID NO: 2), for example, with at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

[0072] The expression of a protein is generally regulated by a non-coding region of a gene termed a promoter. When a promoter controls the transcription of a gene, it can also be said that the expression of the gene (or the encoded protein) is driven by the promoter. When a promoter is placed in proximity of a coding sequence, such that transcription of the coding sequence is under control of the promoter, it can be

said that the coding sequence is operably linked to the promoter. A promoter that is not normally associated with a gene is called a heterologous promoter.

[0073] In an embodiment the expression of the delta-12 desaturase protein encoded by either SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2 and/or SEQ ID NO: 3 and or SEQ ID NO: 4, alone or in combination may function as a, "dominant negative" protein mutation. Dominant negative, or antimorphic mutations occur when the gene product adversely affects the normal, wild-type gene product within the same cell. This usually occurs if the product can still interact with the same elements as the wild-type product, but block some aspect of its function. Such proteins may be competitive inhibitors of the normal protein functions.

[0074] The peptides encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3, and SEQ ID NO: 4 of the present disclosure may be prepared by chemical synthesis known to those of skill in the art. The peptides may also be produced using an expression vector having a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide(s) of choice. The nucleotide sequence may be operably linked to an appropriate promoter, enhancer, terminator, or other sequences capable of regulating the expression of the encoded peptide. The nucleotide sequence may also be operably linked to other functional sequences. In one aspect, such a functional sequence may be a sequence encoding a purification tag, to facilitate expression and purification of the peptides. In another aspect, such a functional sequence may encode an accessory peptide that confers upon the core peptide various properties that are beneficial for the therapeutic functionality of the core peptide, for example, by increasing the stability of the core peptide, or by facilitating the delivery of the core peptide to its therapeutic target tissue or organ in the body.

[0075] The terms "protein," "polypeptide," "peptide," and "enzyme" may be used interchangeably in this disclosure, all of which refer to polymers of amino acids. In addition to the peptides explicitly disclosed herein, certain "conservative" substitutions may be made on these peptides without substantially altering the functionality of the peptides.

[0076] As generally understood in the art, conserved amino acid residues among orthologous proteins are the result of evolutionary pressure to maintain biological function and/or folding the protein. An amino acid position conserved

among orthologous sets of genes can be involved in many aspects of structure and function. Invariant positions, or those showing conservation of certain residue properties (e.g. charge, hydrophobicity, etc.) are less likely to tolerate mutations than those where the protein family permits mutations to a great variety of amino acids. Positional amino acid sequence conservation based on database sequence deposits, for example, is useful in the determination of amino acid substitutions that may have a deleterious affect on protein folding and/or biological function.

[0077] Computer algorithmic sequence alignment programs may be used to predict whether an amino acid substitution affects protein function based on sequence homology and the physical properties of amino acids. Amino acid substitution prediction methods such as, but not limited to, SIFT, PolyPhen, SNPs3D, PANTHER PSEC, PMUT and TopoSNP may be used to predict the effect of an amino acid substitution on protein function. Such prediction methods may be used to determine amino acid substitutions that may result in a loss of function or a reduced activity of the *FAD2-1A* and/or *FAD2-1B* genes.

[0078] Conservative amino acid substitutions are generally defined as the replacement of one or more amino acids for a different amino acid or amino acids, that preserve the structural and functional properties of proteins.

[0079] "Non-conservative" substitutions of one amino acid for another are substitutions of amino acids having dissimilar structural and/or chemical properties, and are generally based on differences in polarity, charge, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues involved. The substituting amino acids may include naturally occurring amino acids as well as those amino acids that are not normally present in proteins that exist in nature.

[0080] The following examples illustrate the present invention. These examples are provided for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to be limiting. The chemicals and other ingredients are presented as typical components or reactants, and various modifications may be derived in view of the foregoing disclosure within the scope of the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF HIGH OLEIC ACID CONTENT
SOYBEAN PLANT LINES

[0081] About 40 soybean strains with elevated oleic acid content were selected. Three breeding lines, including a patented accession strain M23 (U.S. Patent No. 7,326,547), were noted as having different genes that affect oleic acid concentration. M23 has an oleic acid content of about 40%-50% of its total fatty acid profile. As described below, fatty acid profiles are represented as a percent of total seed fatty acid content. M23 has a single recessive gene, designated as *ol* for higher oleic acid content (Takagi, Y. & Rahman, S.M. Inheritance of high oleic acid content in the seed oil) of soybean mutant M23. *Theoretical Applied Genetics* **92**, 179-182 (1996)). A recent study revealed that *ol* in M23 is the result of a deletion at the *FAD2-1A* locus (Sandhu et al., 2007). The other two breeding lines were plant introductions (PI) with elevated oleic acid content based on fatty acid data from the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). GRIN showed that strains PI 283327 and PI 567189A each contained about 41% and 38% oleic acid content, respectively. However, in the University of Missouri-Delta Center Portageville MO field tests across six environments between 2005-2007, strains PI 283327 and PI 567189A averaged about 30% oleic acid where as a check cultivar commonly grown by farmers averaged about 22% oleic acid content. These two PIs were later discovered to have mutations at the *FAD2-1B* locus which results in the higher seed oleic acid content.

Selection and Crosses

[0082] Recombinant inbred line from (RIL) population 1 (F6 RIL of Jake x PI 283327), 2 (F2:6 and F2:7 RIL of M23 x PI 283327) and 3 (F2:5 and F2:7 RIL of M23 x PI 567189 A) were created at the same time. Three crosses were made in summer 2005 at the Delta Research Center at Portageville, MO including Jake x PI 283327, M23 x PI 283327 and M23 x PI 567189A. PI 283327 and PI 567189A are two elevated oleic acid lines with maturity group V and IV, respectively (GRIN USDA), while Jake is a conventional high yielding soybean in group V that contains a typical oleic acid content (Shannon, J.G. et al. Registration of 'Jake' Soybean. *Journal of Plant Registration* **129-30** (2007))., M23 was selected for elevated oleic acid after mutagenesis of the cultivar Bay (Takagi, Y. & Rahman, S.M. Inheritance of high oleic

acid content in the seed oil) of soybean mutant M23. *Theoretical Applied Genetics* **92**, 179-182 (1996). In 2005 and early 2006, F1 seeds were advanced to the F2 generation in Costa Rica. Each RIL tracing to a single F2 plant except population 1 was also advanced in Costa Rica from 2006 to 2007 for F5 seeds. In 2007, a bulk of five seeds from each RIL in each population was analyzed to obtain fatty acid profile for the Costa Rica location. Population 1 was grown in Portageville, MO to produce F7 seeds. Population 2 was grown in Portageville, MO to produce F6 seeds, and then soybean RILs with more than 60% oleic acid were advanced to the F7 generation. In population 3, only F5 RILs producing more than 60% oleic acid were selected to generate F7 seeds at Portageville, MO in subsequent generations.

[0083] In the paragraph immediately above, the nomenclature F2:6 means F2-derived F6, meaning that the last common ancestor of the lines was at F1. The F2 plants started the single seed descent to the F6 generation. A representative sample of population 2 constituting at least 2500 seeds has been placed in a deposit according to terms of the Budapest Treaty for conditional release upon the granting of an issued patent. This deposit is designated PTA 11061.

[0084] In 2008, populations 1 and 2 were grown in Portageville, MO to produce the seeds analyzed for fatty acids in FIGs. 8 and 9. Data in FIG. 10 was from F5 seeds of population 3 produced in Costa Rica. In addition, five lines with the highest oleic acid content from populations 2 and 3 were grown in Columbia, MO in 2009. In 2009, population 4 (17D x (PI 283327 x Jake)) was grown in Columbia, MO to produce the seeds analyzed for fatty acid analysis in FIG. 5. Similarly, four to eleven lines from each of four combinations of homozygous FAD2-1A and FAD2-1B genes from population 4 were grown in Columbia MO and selected lines from population 4 were grown in Portageville, MO in 2009.

[0085] Population 5 was initiated in summer 2008 at Portageville, MO. Soybean line KB07-1#123 was crossed with soybean line #93 from population 2. Soybean line #93 (>80% oleic acid) was genotyped to contain the FAD2-1A Δ alleles from M23 and the FAD2-1B P137R alleles derived from PI 283327. KB07-1#123 is a soybean line with the pedigree [W82 x (M23 x 10-73)]. This soybean line was selected to contain three mutant alleles affecting the fatty acid profile, including FAD2-1A Δ alleles from M23, and mutant FAD3A and FAD3C alleles from soybean line 10-73

(Dierking, E. & Bilyeu, K. New sources of soybean seed meal and oil composition traits identified through TILLING. *BMC Plant Biology* **9**, 89 (2009); Bilyeu, K., Palavalli, L., Sleper, D. & Beuselinck, P. Mutations in soybean microsomal omega-3 fatty acid desaturase genes reduce linolenic acid concentration in soybean seeds. *Crop Science* **45**, 1830-1836 (2005).. F1 seeds were genotyped to confirm the heterozygosity and then advanced to obtain F2 seeds in summer 2009 at Bradford Research and Extension Center, Columbia MO.

[0086] Selection for desirable traits may occur at any segregating generation (F2 and above). Selection pressure may be exerted on a population by growing the population in an environment where the desired trait is maximally expressed and the individuals or lines possessing the trait can be identified. For instance, selection can occur for disease resistance when the plants or lines are grown in natural or artificially-induced disease environments, and the breeder selects only those individuals having little or no disease and are thus assumed to be resistant.

[0087] Double mutant, i.e. *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B*, soybean plant lines may vary in oleic acid concentration depending on the environment, however the oleic acid content (generally up to around 80% - 85% oleic acid content) is consistently higher than either wild type or single *mFAD1A* or *mFAD2-1B* mutant soybean plant lines.

[0088] Crossing of M23 and either PI 283327 or PI 567189A resulted in progeny with levels of oleic acid (around 85% and around 65% respectively) that are significantly higher than either parent (around 20%-50%). This is likely the result of the combination of mutated alleles of *FAD2-1A* derived from M23, and *FAD2-1B* derived from PI 283327 or PI 567189A.

[0089] When combining a different *FAD2-1A* gene, from strain 17D (17D has mutant *FAD2-1A* S117N allele and 35% oleic acid, developed by mutagenesis of Williams 82 seed) x PI 283327, 80% oleic acid lines were also identified. Regardless of the source of the two genes, inheritance of both mutated *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* genes into a single genotype resulted in at least twice the oleic concentration than either parent.

Genetic Characterization of *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* mutations

[0090] For initial characterization of the *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* alleles from multiple germplasm lines, the *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* genes were amplified by PCR and sequenced. Genomic DNA was isolated from approximately 30mg ground seed using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Inc., Valencia, CA). 5 to 50 ng of genomic DNA was used per PCR reaction. PCR was carried out using Ex Taq according to manufacturer's recommendation (Takara, Otsu, Shiga, Japan) in a PTC-200 thermocycler (MJ Research/Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). The forward primer for *FAD2-1A* was 5'-ACTGCATCGAATAATACAAGCC-3'(SEQ ID NO: 7); and reverse primer was 5'-TGATATTGTCCCGTGCAGC-3'(SEQ ID NO: 8);. The forward primer for *FAD2-1B* was 5'-CCCGCTGTCCCTTTTAAACT-3'(SEQ ID NO: 9);; and reverse primer was 5'-TTACATTATAGCCATGGATCGCTAC-3'(SEQ ID NO: 10);. PCR conditions were: 95 °C for 5 minutes followed by 34 cycles of 95 °C for 30 seconds, 60 °C for 30 seconds, 72 °C for 1 minute 30 seconds. PCR products were examined for size by running on Flashgel for 5 minutes. PCR products were then isolated with the Qiaprep Spin Miniprep kit (Qiagen, Inc.) and sequenced at the University of Missouri DNA core facility using the forward and reverse primers for both *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B*. Sequence data was compared with reference "wild-type" Williams 82 sequence (W 82) for the *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* genes. Comparative sequence analysis of all lines tested is illustrated in Table 2.

[0091] As illustrated in Table 2, "S>F" represents a serine to phenylalanine amino acid substitution. "M>V" represents a methionine to valine amino acid substitution. "P>R" represents a proline to arginine amino acid substitution. "I>T" represents an isoleucine to threonine amino acid substitution.

Table 2. Variants in DNA sequences of FAD2-1B mutants

Nucleotide Position	66	105	257 (S>F)	376 (M>V)	410 (P>R)	428 (I>T)	636	657/669/682	724 (M>L)	918
Soybean lines										
W 82	G	A	C	A	C	T	C	CTT	T	A
PI437593 B,										
PI467310, PI404160B, PI561338A, PI561315, PI603452				G				TCC		G
PI567155 B			T	G				TCC		G
PI592974, PI196165, PI416908, PI458044		G		G						G
PI578451, PI 567189A		G	T	G		C		TCC		G
PI210179, PI 283327		G	T	G	G			TCC		G
PI567205	A									
PI458238	A	G		G						G
PI506885, PI507307	A		T	G				TCC		G
PI507420	A	G		G				TCC		G

[0092] DNA sequence analysis revealed that PI 283327 was found to contain a C to G nucleotide substitution at nucleotide 410 in the coding sequence (mRNA) of *FAD2-1B* resulting in a proline to arginine amino acid substitution missense mutation at amino acid 137 (P137R). In contrast, PI 567189A was found to contain a T to C nucleotide substitution at nucleotide 428 in the coding sequence of *FAD2-1B* resulting in an isoleucine to threonine missense mutation at amino acid 143 (I143T). Other single nucleotide polymorphisms were present in the allele, but either did not change the amino acid sequence (silent mutations), contained missense mutations substituting similar amino acids (methionine to valine at amino acid position 125 (M125V), for example), or missense mutations in nonconserved regions of the protein (serine to phenylalanine at amino acid position 86 (S86F), for example).

[0093] Previously, investigation of the S86F mutation in a different germplasm accession with this mutation, was not associated with an increase in oleic acid content, even in the presence of the *FAD2-1A* deleted allele from M23. The *FAD2-1B* P137R mutation is in a very conserved position in the protein, while the I143T mutation is in a less conserved position (FIG. 1B). Subsequent to these discoveries, PI 210179 was found to contain a *FAD2-1B* allele identical to PI 283327.

PI 578451 was found to contain a *FAD2-1B* allele identical to PI 567189A. Other germplasm accessions containing variant *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* alleles were also discovered by sequencing.

[0094] FIG. 1B shows the relative frequency of amino acid substitutions between amino acids 135-150 of the *FAD2* gene sequences present in the National Center for Biotechnology Information sequence database. A Weblogo output was determined by the amino acid conservation of fatty acid desaturase enzymes aligned as part of the BLINK feature at NCBI using GI number 197111724. Amino acid positions within the protein are listed on the X axis. The overall height for each amino acid column stack indicates the sequence conservation at that position while the height of one-letter amino acid symbols within the column stack indicates the relative frequency of each amino acid in that position [Crooks GE, Hon G, Chandonia JM, Brenner SE WebLogo: A sequence logo generator, *Genome Research*, 14:1188-1190, (2004)]. The white and black arrows indicate the P137R and I143T positions mutated in PI 283327 and PI 567189A, respectively.

[0095] FIG. 1A is reproduced from Dierking and Bilyeu, 2009, *BMC Plant Biology* 9:89 to show Weblogo output of the relative frequency of amino acid substitutions/amino acid conservation between amino acids 104-123 of the *FAD2* gene. Amino acid positions within the protein are listed on the X axis. The overall height for each amino acid column stack indicates the sequence conservation at that position while the height of one-letter amino acid symbols within the column stack indicates the relative frequency of each amino acid in that position. The arrow indicates the *FAD2-1A* S117N position mutated in line 17D.

[0096] Much work has been done with the M23 *FAD2-1A* gene, but initial results with the 17D line suggest that 80% oleic acid soybean lines can be produced with either source of the *FAD2-1A* mutation in combination with a *FAD2-1B* mutation (described below).

The high oleic acid phenotype is stable in plants grown in alternate environments

[0097] Some of the high oleic acid soybean lines developed in this study demonstrated stability for the high oleic acid trait when grown in different environments (Table 3). Of the three environments, Costa Rica typically has the warmest temperatures during seed development, followed by the Portageville, MO

environment; the Columbia, MO environment is the coolest of the three environments during seed development. The differences in the oleic acid contents between environments when the *FAD2-1B* P137R alleles were present were minor. Soybean lines with genotype aabb of population 2 and 4 produced more than 80% oleic acid content in Costa Rica and Portageville, MO environments, and the oleic acid level was an average of 2-4% lower when grown in the Columbia, MO environment. It is notable that the variation in the phenotype was narrow in all of the environments. In contrast, the aabb soybean lines of population 3 containing the *FAD2-1B* I143T alleles had lower and more variable oleic acid content in the cooler environments, and failed to produce a high oleic acid phenotype in either the Columbia, MO or Portageville, MO environments.

Table 3. Oleic acid content and seed generation of soybean lines with different combinations of mutant *FAD2-1A* and mutant *FAD2-1B* produced in three environments.

Population acid)		Oleic acid content (percent of total fatty		
<i>FAD2-1A</i>	<i>FAD2-1B</i>	Costa Rica ¹	Portageville, MO ²	Columbia, MO ³
2 ΔP137R	81.4 ± 5.7 ^{F5}	82.2 ± 1.2 ^{F7}	79.1 ± 1.3 ^{F8}	
3 ΔI143T	80.0 ± 4.0 ^{F5}	65.0 ± 4.3 ^{F7}	58.7 ± 7.7 ^{F8}	
4 S117N	P137R	81.1 ± 2.2 ^{F2}	81.7 ± 2.1 ^{F3}	77.3 ± 2.0 ^{F3}

¹Research station in Costa Rica. Seeds of F₅ generation of population of 2 and 3 were produced in winter 2006-2007, while F₂ seeds of population 4 were produced in winter 2008-2009. ²Plants were grown in Delta Research Center, seeds of F₇ generation of the populations 2 and 3 were produced in summer 2008 and F₃ generation of population 4 was produced in summer 2009. ³All of the plants were grown summer 2009 at the Bradford Research & Extension Center, Columbia MO.

[0098] Table 4 illustrates that the high oleic acid phenotype is stable across multiple growing environments, including Portageville, MO, Columbia, MO, Stoneville, MS and Knoxville, TN. Soybean plants inheriting the aabb genotype have oleic acid contents ranging from 72.3-83.2.

Table 4.

Stability analysis of high oleic acid soybean lines across the environments

		Portageville, MO					Columbia, MO					Stoneville, MS					Knoxville, TN					18:1 Range	Dif en					
Name	MG	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	18:1 Range	Dif en
S08-14692 (aabb)	IV	7.7	3.9	80.8	3.7	4.0	8.7	3.5	78.8	4.9	5.6	8.4	3.8	77.7	6.8	3.3	8.0	3.4	80.1	4.1	4.3	80.8 - 77.7						
S08-14709 (aabb)	IV	6.6	2.9	80.1	5.0	5.4	6.8	3.0	74.3	9.0	6.9	7.3	3.2	80.9	4.7	3.9	6.9	2.9	81.1	4.0	5.0	81.1 - 74.3						
S08-14705 (aabb)	IV	6.9	2.6	83.2	3.8	3.5	6.5	3.1	80.5	4.7	5.2	7.6	3.3	78.3	7.7	3.1	7.1	2.9	80.7	5.7	3.7	83.2 - 78.3						
S08-14700 (aabb)	V	7.5	2.4	82.1	3.7	4.3	7.5	2.9	76.5	6.9	6.2	7.9	2.7	78.9	7.4	3.2	7.9	2.6	80.7	4.2	4.6	82.1 - 76.5						
S08-14702 (aabb)	V	6.6	3.3	83.2	2.8	4.1	7.0	3.4	72.3	10.6	6.7	7.1	3.4	80.7	5.7	3.2	6.9	3.1	82.6	3.5	4.0	83.2 - 72.3	1					
S08-14717 (aabb)	V	7.8	2.7	81.8	3.8	4.0	7.8	3.2	76.4	6.6	5.9	8.0	2.6	80.1	6.3	3.0	7.9	2.7	82.1	3.2	4.1	82.1 - 76.4						
M23 (FAD2-1A parent) (aa)	V	10.0	2.9	43.6	36.3	7.2	9.3	3.5	44.2	34.4	8.6	9.2	2.9	59.2	23.9	4.8	9.5	2.8	52.0	29.7	6.1	59.2 - 43.6	1					
PI283327 (FAD2-1B parent) (bb)	V	10.8	4.2	27.8	46.3	10.8	10.7	4.1	23.1	49.7	12.4	11.9	3.9	30.6	46.1	7.5	11.1	4.0	25.3	48.2	11.4	30.6 - 23.1						
5002T (Check) (AABB)	IV	11.2	4.3	23.8	53.1	7.6	11.2	4.2	19.8	55.1	9.6	11.3	4.5	23.9	53.8	6.5	11.7	4.1	21.7	54.9	7.6	23.9 - 19.8						
Anand (Check) (AABB)	V	12.6	3.1	19.4	55.6	9.4	12.0	3.4	18.2	55.4	11.0	12.6	3.3	20.1	55.6	8.5	12.3	3.2	21.6	54.5	8.3	21.6 - 18.2						
N98-4445A (Check- high oleic)	IV	8.9	3.8	55.8	29.0	2.6	9.3	4.3	46.7	36.2	3.5	9.0	3.1	63.8	21.9	2.2	8.8	3.5	63.6	21.8	2.3	63.8 - 46.7	1					

[0099] Lines S08-14692, S08-14709, S08-14705, S08-14700, S08-14702 and S08-14717 are soybean lines selected from a cross of lines M23 x PI283327 that inherit the mutant *FAD2-1A* alleles (aa) from M23 and the *FAD2-1B* P137R alleles (bb) from PI 283327 and are genotype aabb. Lines Anand and 5002T are soybean lines that are wild-type for the *FAD2-1A* alleles (AA) and *FAD2-1B* alleles (BB) and have the genotype AABB. Line N98-4445A a soybean line that contains elevated oleic acid content and carries at least six genes (QTLs) conditioning the high oleic phenotype.

Determination of fatty acid content

[0100] Fatty acid profiles as a percent of total oil for each genotype within each environment were determined by Gas Chromatography (GC) as described by Oliva et al. (2006). In most cases, five individual seeds from various strains and crosses were randomly selected for fatty acid analysis. The fatty acid profiles as illustrated in FIG. 2, however, used between either 5 or 10 seeds for measurement. Each five or ten seed sample was placed in a paper envelope, and then manually crushed with a hammer. Oil was extracted by placing crushed seeds in 5 mL chloroform:hexane:methanol (8:5:2, v/v/v) overnight. Derivatization was done by transferring 100 μ L of extract to vials and adding 75 μ L of methylating reagent (0.25 M methanolic sodium methoxide:petroleum ether:ethyl ether, 1:5:2 v/v/v). Hexane was added to bring samples to approximately 1 mL. An Agilent (Palo Alto, CA) series 6890 capillary gas chromatograph fitted with a flame ionization detector (275°C) was used with an AT-Silar capillary column (Alltech Associates, Deerfield, IL). Standard fatty acid mixtures (Animal and Vegetable Oil Reference Mixture 6, AOACS) were used as calibration reference standards.

[0101] As illustrated in FIGs. 2-4, “A” denotes a “wild-type” or non mutated *FAD2-1A* allele such as carried by reference strain W 82. “a” denotes a mutated *FAD2-1A* (*mFAD2-1A*) allele, such as carried by strain M23. “B” denotes a “wild-type” or non-mutated *FAD2-1B* allele. “b” denotes a mutated *FAD2-1B* (*mFAD2-1B*) allele such as carried by strains PI 283327 and PI 567189A. Thus “AA” denotes a homozygous *FAD2-1A* genotype, “aa” denotes a homozygous *mFAD2-1A* genotype, “BB” denotes a homozygous *FAD2-1B* genotype, “bb” denotes a homozygous *mFAD2-1B* genotype, Aa denotes a heterozygous *FAD2-1A/ mFAD2-1A* genotype and Bb denotes a heterozygous *FAD2-1B/ mFAD2-1B* genotype.

[0102] FIG. 2 is a bar graph showing the relative fatty acid content of fatty acid components 16:0, 18:0, 18:1, 18:2 and 18:3 in various allelic variants of F7 progeny derived from M23 x PI 283327 recombinant inbred lines (RILs). As can be seen in figure 2, progeny homozygous for wild-type *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* (AABB) had oleic acid levels consistent with what is normally found in nature i.e. around 20%. The corresponding byproduct of oleic acid desaturation, linoleic acid levels were around 55%. Mutations in *FAD2-1B* alone (AAbb) showed only a very minor increase in oleic acid content, ranging from between about 25% to about 30%. Remarkably, progeny with both the *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B* (aabb) alleles had oleic acid levels around 80%, with the corresponding linoleic acid levels below 5%.

[0103] As shown in FIG. 3, oleic acid content was further characterized and compared to the parental lines M23 and PI 283327. Consistent with the results in FIG. 2, seeds with wild-type alleles (AABB) had levels of oleic acid around 20%. Seeds with genotypes of either the aaBB or AAbb had levels of oleic acid around 40 % or around 25% respectively. As demonstrated in FIG. 2, while mutations in *FAD2-1B* alone (AAbb) showed only a very minor increase in oleic acid content, double mutant seeds with the *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B* (aabb) alleles had oleic acid levels of around 80%. M23 and PI 283327 seeds had oleic acid levels of around 42% and 25%, respectively.

[0104] Similar to strain M23, 17D is a strain of soybean that has a mutation in the *FAD2-1A* gene. As shown in FIG. 4, F2 seeds (produced in Costa Rica in early 2009) homozygous for this mutation showed a small increase in oleic acid levels from around 20% to around 25%. When strain 17D was crossed with a line derived from PI 283327, F2 seeds containing homozygous genes of both *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B* (aabb) had an oleic acid content of around 80%. FIG. 4 also shows that various heterozygous genotypes had varying levels of oleic acid illustrating that a stratification of oleic acid levels may be obtained through a variation of *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* allele combinations. For example, heterozygous inheritance of 17D *mFAD2-1A* (Aa) and homozygous inheritance of *mFAD2-1B* (bb) resulted in seeds with around 45% oleic acid levels.

[0105] The initial investigation of both the *FAD2-1* genotype and fatty acid phenotype in F2 seeds from Population 4 (*FAD2-1A* S117N x *FAD2-1B* P137 cross) demonstrated the epistatic nature of the mutant alleles working in combination,

and the results revealed that only homozygous combinations of both mutant FAD2-1A and FAD2-1B were capable of producing the high oleic acid phenotype. Of the 200 F2 seeds that were phenotyped, there were 12 individual F2 seeds with genotype FAD2-1 aabb, and they had an average oleic acid content of 81%, ranging from 75.2% to 83.9% oleic acid (FIG. 4). The next highest oleic acid phenotype in the set was 48.8%, and that seed had the FAD2-1 Aabb genotype. For a two recessive gene model, one sixteenth of the individuals should inherit the phenotype; recovery of 12 individuals with the high oleic acid phenotype satisfies this expectation by Chi-Square test at the 0.05 probability level.

[0106] Individuals with a single wild-type version of either FAD2-1A or FAD2-1B in combination with three mutant FAD2-1 alleles (Aabb or aaBb) contained approximately 40% oleic acid. No seeds from any of the other FAD2-1 genotypes contained oleic acid levels above 49% of the seed oil. Individuals with two or more wild-type FAD2-1 alleles contained oleic acid content with a range of 18-47% of the seed oil.

[0107] The necessity of the homozygous FAD2-1A and FAD2-1B mutant combination requirement for the high oleic acid phenotype was confirmed in an independent analysis of FAD2-1 genotype and fatty acid phenotype of field produced F2 seeds that contained homozygous FAD2-1A Δ alleles but which were segregating for FAD2-1B P137R alleles (Population 5). While the average oleic acid level of those seeds with the aabb genotype was 82.5%, aaBb seeds averaged 55.4%; aaBB seeds averaged 43.4% oleic acid in the seed oil. The presence of a single wild-type version of the FAD2-1B allele also prevented a high oleic acid content in the seed oil, although the magnitude of the difference was greater for the F2 seeds from Population 4.

[0108] Table 5 shows the relative oleic acid content for 14 soybean plant lines derived from M23 x PI 283327 between 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. As designated in Table 3, "MT" represents the maturity date in days after August 1, i.e. an MT of 68 indicates that the line matured on October 8. Each of the 14 F6 lines were homozygous recessive for *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B*. Furthermore, each of the 14 lines traced to a separate F2 plant and are F2:6 recombinant inbred lines. These results derived from seed grown in Costa Rica. Samples from 2006-2007 were of the F5 generation, whereas samples derived from 2007-2008 were of the F6

generation. Oleic acid concentrations were generally near to, or greater than 80%, ranging from around 79% to around 86%.

Table 5. Oleic acid content as percentage of total fatty acid for 14 soybean plant lines derived from M23 x PI283327 grown in Costa Rica

Line	MT 08	2006-07	2007-08
		18:1 (F5)	18:1 (F6)
S08-14692	56	84.5	83.8
S08-14693	60	84.1	75.8
S08-14700	68	84.5	84.5
S08-14701	68	82.0	85.5
S08-14702	68	86.5	84.2
S08-14705	60	81.0	84.4
S08-14708	58	85.4	84.6
S08-14709	60	83.2	82.4
S08-14711	65	83.9	82.7
S08-14715	68	79.6	82.2
S08-14716	58	86.4	84.9
S08-14717	70	86.6	85.7
S08-14718	65	86.4	84.4
S08-14719		85.0	83.4

[0109] Table 6 shows the fatty acid profiles for 14 soybean plant lines derived from M23 x PI 283327 performed in 2008. Each of the 14 F6 lines were homozygous recessive for *mFAD2-1A* and *mFAD2-1B*. Furthermore, each of the 14 lines traced to a separate F2 plant and is a F2:6 recombinant inbred line. Seed from the 14 soybean lines were grown in Portageville Missouri. Oleic acid concentrations were generally near to, or greater than, 80%, and ranged from around 79% to around 85%.

Table 6. Fatty acid profiles for 14 F7 soybean plant lines derived from M23 x PI 283327 grown in Portageville Missouri

Line	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3	Range (18:1)	# of plants
S08-14692	8.0	3.6	81.2	3.0	4.1	80.6-81.9	15
S08-14693	8.5	3.2	79.3	4.6	4.5	77.7-80.7	3
S08-14700	8.1	3.2	82.0	2.7	4.2	80.7-83.9	15
S08-14701	7.7	3.4	83.0	2.4	3.4	81.9-84.5	15
S08-14702	7.0	3.8	82.9	2.4	3.9	81.5-84.4	15
S08-14705	8.3	3.9	82.7	1.7	3.4	81.5-83.9	6
S08-14708	7.6	3.9	82.3	2.1	4.2	80.2-83.8	9
S08-14709	7.6	3.5	81.3	3.0	4.6	76.4-82.2	15
S08-14711	8.4	4.2	80.8	2.4	4.2	79.0-81.6	15
S08-14715	7.8	4.2	80.8	2.8	4.4	79.4-82.5	15
S08-14716	8.8	3.2	81.3	2.8	3.8	80.3-83.2	8

S08-14717	8.1	3.7	82.9	1.7	3.7	81.0-84.0	15
S08-14718	7.1	3.9	83.5	1.9	3.6	82.2-84.4	15
S08-14719	8.7	2.8	81.6	3.5	4.0	79.3-83.6	22
M23 parent	10.2	3.3	43.8	35.9	6.8		
PI 283327 parent	11.0	4.1	26.5	47.8	10.6		

[0110] Table 7 shows the fatty acid profiles from analyses in 2008 for 12 F2 soybean plant lines derived from 17D x S08-14788 (Jake x PI 283327). Oleic acid levels ranged from about 75% to about 84%.

Table 7. Fatty acid profiles for 12 F2 soybean lines derived from 17D x S08-14788(Jake x PI283327)

Line	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3
10	7.0	2.7	83.9	2.4	4.1
41	8.4	3.0	75.2	7.6	5.8
43	7.9	3.2	81.2	2.9	4.8
46	7.5	2.8	83.0	2.4	4.4
67	7.6	3.2	81.5	2.6	5.0
92	7.4	3.4	81.4	2.8	4.9
98	7.5	3.0	82.6	2.5	4.4
104	8.3	3.2	81.1	2.8	4.6
106	7.5	2.8	80.9	3.1	5.7
129	7.4	3.3	82.3	2.9	4.2
159	8.9	3.0	79.5	2.8	5.7
197	7.9	3.1	80.6	3.5	4.8

[0111] Seed (grown in Portageville, Missouri in 2008) derived from a cross between M23 and PI 567189A (M23 x PI 567189A) were also analyzed to determine relative amounts of oleic acid. FIG. 5 represents genotype and phenotype analysis for plants that inherited either a wild-type (AA) or deleted version (aa) of the *FAD2-1A* gene and either a wild-type (BB) or the I143T mutant allele (bb) of *FAD2-1B* from PI 567189A that differs from the m*FAD2-1B* allele present in PI 283327 (described above). As shown in FIG. 5, the PI 567189A allele was “weaker” than the PI 283327 allele of m*FAD2-1B*. Whereas soybean plants inheriting homozygous alleles of both PI 283327 and M23 consistently had levels of oleic acid around 80%, soybean plants inheriting homozygous mutant *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* alleles from PI 567189A and M23 had oleic acid content around 65%.

[0112] Seed derived from a cross between Jake and PI 283327 (Jake x PI 283327) were also analyzed to determine their fatty acid profile. FIG. 6 represents genotype and phenotype analysis for plants that inherited either a wild-type (AA)

version of the *FAD2-1A* gene and either a wild-type (BB) or the P137R mutant allele (bb) of *FAD2-1B* from PI 283327 that differs from the *mFAD2-1B* allele present in PI 567189A (described above). As shown in FIG. 6, the PI 283327 *mFAD2-1B* allele on the wild-type Jake background (AAbb) had modest effects on oleic acid levels.

Whereas, seeds inheriting the AABB genotypes had oleic acid levels of around 20%, seeds inheriting the AAbb genotypes had only a slight increase in oleic acid levels to around 28%.

[0113] Taken together these data indicate that plants inheriting loss of function or reduced activity mutations in both the *FAD2-1A* gene and the *FAD2-1B* gene produced seed with high levels of oleic acid content ranging from about 75% to about 85%.

[0114] The full fatty acid profiles of the seeds of contrasting *FAD2*-genotypic classes produced from Populations 2, 3, and 4 in this study revealed additional alterations in palmitic acid, linoleic acid, and linolenic acid content (Table 6). As expected for a major decrease in seed expressed FAD2 enzyme activity that results in an accumulation of oleic acid, the FAD2 reaction products linoleic acid and linolenic acid were dramatically reduced in the high oleic *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* homozygous mutant lines when either of the *FAD2-1A* mutations were present along with the *FAD2-1B* P137R or I143T alleles.

[0115] Table 8. shows fatty acid profiles for different homozygous *FAD2-1* genotypes in four segregating populations developed by crossing soybean lines carrying different sources of mutant *FAD2-1A* alleles with different sources of mutant *FAD2-1B* alleles.

Table 8. Fatty acid profiles of various genotypes.

	FattyAcid				
	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2	18:3
<u>Population 1 (Jake1 x PI 283327)</u>					
BB (n=24)	12.2 ± 0.9	3.9 ± 0.5	20.5 ± 2.6	53.4 ± 2.8	10.0 ± 0.3
bb (n=30)	11.2 ± 0.7	3.8 ± 0.6	29.4 ± 6.0	47.0 ± 5.1	8.7 ± 0.5
<u>Population 2 (M23 x PI283327)</u>					
AABB (n=5)	12.3 ± 0.5	3.7 ± 0.4	19.9 ± 3.3	55.4 ± 2.7	8.7 ± 1.0
AAbb (n=5)	11.0 ± 0.5	3.9 ± 0.4	30.8 ± 5.2	45.9 ± 4.6	8.5 ± 0.9
aaBB (n=14)	10.8 ± 0.8	3.8 ± 0.6	39.4 ± 5.7	37.1 ± 4.8	8.9 ± 1.2
aabb (n=16)	7.9 ± 0.7	3.7 ± 0.6	82.2 ± 1.2	2.3 ± 0.6	3.9 ± 0.5
<u>Population 3 (M23 x PI 567189A)</u>					

AABB (n=11)	12.5 ± 0.9	2.9 ± 0.4	26.3 ± 7.4	51.4 ± 6.4	6.1 ± 1.2
AAbb (n=3)	12.4 ± 0.8	2.8 ± 0.4	31.1 ± 4.5	47.5 ± 3.3	6.1 ± 1.0
aaBB (n=1)	10.3 ± 0.6	2.8 ± 0.3	48.2 ± 7.2	32.5 ± 6.1	6.2 ± 0.9
aabb (n=16)	8.4 ± 0.8	2.6 ± 0.4	80.0 ± 4.0	5.0 ± 3.0	3.8 ± 0.6
<u>Population 4 F2(17D x S08-14788)</u>					
AABB (n=5)	12.3 ± 0.9	3.2 ± 0.3	20.1 ± 0.9	55.7 ± 1.0	8.7 ± 0.6
AAbb (n=5)	12.1 ± 1.0	3.4 ± 0.5	26.5 ± 4.5	47.8 ± 3.7	10.2 ± 0.9
aaBB (n=6)	11.7 ± 0.3	3.0 ± 0.2	26.8 ± 1.4	48.2 ± 0.7	9.9 ± 0.5
aabb (n=12)	7.8 ± 0.5	3.1 ± 0.2	81.1 ± 2.2	3.2 ± 1.4	4.9 ± 0.6
<u>Population 4 F 2:3 (17D x S0814788)</u>					
AABB (n=5)	9.6 ± 0.6	3.9 ± 0.4	22.4 ± 2.9	56.0 ± 2.8	8.2 ± 0.9
AAbb (n=4)	10.5 ± 0.5	3.8 ± 0.3	23.1 ± 2.5	54.0 ± 2.6	8.6 ± 0.5
aaBB (n=6)	9.3 ± 0.6	3.2 ± 0.3	35.0 ± 7.8	42.9 ± 5.9	9.6 ± 2.2
aabb (n=11)	6.9 ± 0.4	3.2 ± 0.2	77.3 ± 2.0	6.3 ± 1.5	6.3 ± 0.6

*AA = wild-type *FAD2-1A* alleles, aa = mutant *FAD2-1A* alleles derived from M23 or 17D, BB = wild-type *FAD2-1B* alleles, bb = mutant *FAD2-1B* alleles derived from PI 283327 or PI 567189A.

[0116] By evaluating the proportions of oleic, linoleic, and linolenic acids present in the oil extracted from mature seeds, the relative FAD2 and FAD3 desaturase activities of the developing seeds were determined for the contrasting homozygous *FAD2-1* genotypes from each population. The *FAD2-1* AABB genotypes contained FAD2 desaturase activities (final oleic acid content divided by the sum of final oleic, linoleic, and linolenic acid contents) of 76%, 76%, and 74% for Population 2, Population 3, and Population 4, respectively. The *FAD2-1* aabb genotypes contained FAD2 desaturase activities of 7%, 10%, and 14%, for Population 2, Population 3, and Population 4, respectively. Also noted is that the accumulation of linolenic acid follows a different pattern for the *FAD2-1* aabb mutant lines compared to the *FAD2-1* AABB lines, with increased FAD3 desaturase activity (final linolenic acid content divided by the sum of final linoleic and linolenic acid contents) for the *FAD2-1* mutant lines.

[0117] While no significant differences were observed for the stearic acid levels in the contrasting *FAD2-1* genotypes, the aabb mutant lines consistently produced lower palmitic acid levels than lines with the AABB genotype. The most dramatic change was for Population 2. In that case, the content of palmitic acid was 7.9% for the aabb mutant lines compared to 12.3% for the AABB lines.

[0118] Because of the concern that improvement in fatty acid profiles might have negative impacts on the total oil and protein profiles of the seeds, we also evaluated the protein and oil contents for the field produced F2:3 seeds from Population 4. There were no significant differences in the protein or oil contents among the different homozygous *FAD2* genotypes, or with those lines compared to either Williams 82 or the 17D parental line. The *FAD2-1B* P137R allele donor parental line had a minor decrease in the average oil content and the highest mean protein content of all of the lines examined.

**Genotyping high oleic acid content soybean lines PI 283327 and PI 567189A
FAD2-1B alleles from wild-type *FAD2-1B* alleles**

[0119] Genotyping assays were designed to distinguish the PI 283327 and PI 567189A *FAD2-1B* alleles from wild-type alleles. The genotyping assays work by asymmetric gene-specific real-time PCR amplification of genomic DNA in the *FAD2-1B* region surrounding the c410g and t428c single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the presence of a fluorescently labeled SimpleProbe (Roche Applied Sciences). After amplification, the PCR products are subjected to a melting curve analysis which tracks the dissociation kinetics of the SimpleProbe from the target DNA. The SimpleProbe has a characteristic melting profile for homozygous wild-type, heterozygous, and homozygous mutant alleles.

[0120] The SimpleProbe, GmFAD2-1B, was designed to detect wild-type, heterozygous, and homozygous mutant alleles. GmFAD2-1B SimpleProbe consists of 5'-SPC (simple probe chemistry) -AGTCCCTTATTTCTCATGGAAATAAGC--Phosphate-3' (SEQ ID NO 11):. The C to G mutation and T to C mutation are indicated by underline. Genotyping reactions were performed with a 5:2 asymmetric mix of primers (5'-ACTGCATCGAATAATACAAGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 12); at 2 μ M final concentration, and 5'-TGATATTGTCCCGTCCAGC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 13); at 5 μ M final concentration). Reactions were carried out in 20 μ l; containing template, primers, 0.2 μ M final concentration of SimpleProbe, and 0.2X Titanium Taq polymerase (BD Biosciences, Palo Alto, CA). Genotyping reactions were performed using a Lightcycler 480 II real time PCR instrument (Roche), using the following PCR parameters: 95 °C for 5 minutes followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 20 seconds, 60 °C for 20 seconds, 72 °C for 20 seconds, and then a melting curve from 55 °C to 70 °C. When DNA from PI 283327 and PI 567189A is amplified with gene

specific primers and used in melting curve analysis with the SimpleProbe, a mismatch between the Simpleprobe and the amplicon results in altered disassociation kinetics. Each genotype produced a characteristic melting profile, as measured by T_m of the negative first derivative of the disappearance of fluorescent signal. PI 283327 and all soybean lines with similar *FAD2-1B* genotype have a characteristic peak of 56.7 °C, while PI 567189A yielded a characteristic peak at 60.2 °C. M23 and Jake (wild-type for *FAD2-1B*) have a peak at 62.5 °C. Heterozygous individual's genotype showed two peaks at either 56.7 °C or 60.2 °C and 62.5 °C.

[0121] Genotyping for three populations Jake x PI 283327, M23 x PI 283327, M23 x PI 567189A, were performed with SimpleProbe assay as described. FIG. 7 graphically represents a melting curve analysis with peaks corresponding to homozygous Mutant (bb), wild-type (BB), and Heterozygous (Bb) alleles of *FAD2-1B* and *mFAD2-1B* genes.

Effect of Temperature on Oleic Acid Content

[0122] Although there is evidence of influence of temperature on the soybean seed oleic acid content, two of our three high oleic acid soybean genotypes proved to be capable of producing a high and stable oleic acid content in three environments. Moreover, there was no reduction in oil and protein content in the evaluated high oleic acid soybean lines. Soybean lines with the combination of *FAD2-1A* Δ and *FAD2-1B* I143T alleles from population 3 failed to produce the high oleic acid phenotype when grown in the nontropical environments. A possible explanation is the mutation in the *FAD2-1B* allele of PI 567189 A encodes at least nominal enzyme function. This explanation is supported by the fact that the I143T substitution is in a less conserved amino acid of the FAD2 enzyme than the P137R substitution. Other than that, the high oleic acid soybean lines showed a reduction of 4% at most when they were grown in the cooler environment, with a small variation in the oleic acid content. It will be necessary to test the performance of these high oleic acid soybean lines in the main North American soybean growing locations in more northern latitudes. The mutant *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* alleles will have to be combined in soybean lines with the appropriate maturity for those experiments to be conducted. However, based on the stability of the trait that we have observed so far, any reduction of oleic acid content due to the environment is likely to be minor because very little FAD2 enzyme activity remains in developing seeds in the mutant

FAD2-1A and *FAD2-1B* lines. An additional factor is that the end use market has not matured sufficiently to define the exact oleic acid content desired for different oil uses. Another question that should be addressed is whether the trait will affect yield or other agronomic traits. It has been reported that the transgenic soybean lines with the *FAD2-1* genes being silenced did not show any yield drag or abnormal physiology characteristics.

[0123] The methods and strains, outlined above, function to produce conventional soybean varieties containing an enhanced nutritional oil profile trait high in oleic acid oil. The current yearly demand for oleic acid is approximately four million tons of high oleic acid oil and growing. This figure translates to an annual production of two million acres of high oleic acid soybean to meet the current demand. The availability of soybeans with enhanced oil profile traits may influence the market and increase demand, particularly if the domestic biofuel capacity increases.

[0124] As outlined above, transgenic technology is not required, thus eliminating the need for the expensive and time consuming regulatory process. The developed perfect molecular markers and soybean germplasm provide an efficient way to rapidly integrate these desirable traits into additional commercial soybean lines.

[0125] Industry has not had access to non-transgenic elite soybean varieties with the high oleic acid trait. The high oleic acid soybean oil is likely to provide a replacement in the food industry for food formulations that previously used partially hydrogenated vegetable oil. Currently, low linolenic acid soybean oil can fulfill some of the demand for alternatives to the trans fat –containing partially hydrogenated vegetable oil. High oleic acid soybean oil adds value by improving functionality of soybean oil in many products such as improving cold flow of biodiesel; better lubricants to withstand high temperature and wider use in foods, pharmaceuticals and other products.

EXAMPLE 2

GENERATION OF HIGH OLEIC ACID CONTENT SOYBEAN SEEDS USING STANDARD BREEDER GROWER METHODS

[0126] Soybean plant strains are analyzed for mutations that result in loss of function or reduced biological activity of the *FAD2-1A* or *FAD2-1B* genes as

described above. Soybean plant lines exhibiting impaired activity in either *FAD2-1A* or *FAD2-1B* as measured by oleic acid content phenotype, are crossed (*mFAD2-1A* x *mFAD2-1B*) to generate progeny that carry both a *FAD2-1A* mutation a *FAD2-1B* mutation. These mutations are stably inherited and function synergistically to produce seed with high levels of oleic acid. Fatty acid compositions are analyzed from seed of soybean lines derived from the parental cross using gas chromatography. Seed of the transformed plants exhibit high levels of oleic acid between about 65% to about 85%.

EXAMPLE 3

SELECTION OF HIGH OLEIC ACID SOYBEAN LINES WITH ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE TRAITS

[0127] In certain embodiments it may be desirable to select soybeans plants with seeds having high oleic acid content as well as additional desirable traits with various phenotypes of agronomic interest. Examples of additional desirable traits may be, but not limited to, disease resistance, pest resistance, pesticide resistance, accelerated growth rate, high seed yield, ability to grow in diverse environments etc.

[0128] A soybean plant with loss of function or reduced activity mutations in *FAD2-1A* and *FAD2-1B* is crossed with a soybean plant with one or more desirable traits. Progeny from the cross are analyzed for the presence of the desirable genotypic and phenotypic characteristics deriving from *FAD2-1A/FAD2-1B* double mutants and the soybean plants with additional desirable traits.

EXAMPLE 4

GENERATION OF DOMINANT NEGATIVE FAD2 TRANSGENIC PLANTS

[0129] A soybean nucleotide sequence with at least 80%, 90%, 95%, 98%, or 99% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and or SEQ ID NO: 2 and or SEQ ID NO: 3 and or SEQ ID NO: 4 is cloned into an expression vector. The resulting expression constructs are used for transformation of soybean using biolistic methods described below.

[0130] The expression vector may have a promoter that functions to express a dominant negative form of *mFAD2-1B* at levels greater than those seen when expressed with the endogenous or wild-type promoter.

[0131] Linear DNA fragments containing the expression constructs for the dominant negative expression of *mFAD2-1B* desaturase genes are stably introduced into soybean (Asgrow variety A3244 or A4922A32) by the particle bombardment method of McCabe et al. (1988), Bio/Technology, 6:923-926 or via cocultivation with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, strain ABI. (Martinell, U.S. Pat. No. 6,384,310). Transformed soybean plants are identified by the genotyping assays described above.

[0132] Fatty acid compositions are analyzed from seed of soybean lines transformed with the dominant negative expression constructs using gas chromatography.

EXAMPLE 5

GENERATION OF HIGH OLEIC ACID CONTENT SOYBEAN SEEDS

[0133] Soybean plant seeds are analyzed for spontaneous mutations that result in elevated oleic acid phenotypes, as described above. Soybean plant lines exhibiting impaired activity in either *FAD2-1A* or *FAD2-1B* as measured by oleic acid content phenotype, are crossed (i.e. *mFAD2-1A* x *mFAD2-1B*) to generate progeny that carry both a *FAD2-1A* mutation a *FAD2-1B* mutation. These mutations are stably inherited and function synergistically to produce seed with high levels of oleic acid. Fatty acid compositions are analyzed from seed of soybean lines derived from the parental cross using gas chromatography. Seed of the transformed plants exhibit high levels of oleic acid (over 80%).

[0134] The description of the specific embodiments reveals general concepts that others can modify and/or adapt for various applications or uses that do not depart from the general concepts. Therefore, such adaptations and modifications should and are intended to be comprehended within the meaning and range of equivalents of the disclosed embodiments. It is to be understood that the phraseology or terminology employed herein is for the purpose of description and not limitation. Certain terms with capital or small letters, in singular or in plural forms, may be used interchangeably in this disclosure.

[0135] All references mentioned in this application are incorporated by reference to the same extent as though fully replicated herein.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selecting soybean plants with seed having an oleic acid content of between about 65% to about 85%, said method comprising: crossing a first soybean plant having one or more mutations in a first polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1A gene SEQ ID NO: 5 with a second soybean plant having one or more mutations in a second polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1B gene SEQ ID NO: 6.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first polynucleotide sequence further comprising having at least 95% identity assessed as sequence homology with a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the second polynucleotide sequence further comprising having at least 95% identity assessed as sequence homology with a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more mutations interfere with a function of a protein encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence encoding FAD2-1A and a protein encoded by the second polynucleotide sequence encoding FAD2-1B.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more mutations result in a loss of function and/or a reduced activity of a protein encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence and a protein encoded by the second polynucleotide sequence.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a mutation in the second polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1B polypeptide includes at least one mutation selected from the group consisting of:

- a. a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 137
- b. a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 143

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one mutation in the polypeptide comprises a polar amino acid.

8. The method of claim 7 where the polar amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: arginine, glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, asparagine, tyrosine, glutamine, lysine and histidine.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the mutation in the first polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1A polypeptide includes at least one mutation comprising at least one non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 117.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the soybean plant contains at least one non-conserved amino acid substitution as asparagine.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising, predicting one or more amino acid substitutions that result in a loss of function or a reduced activity of the protein encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence and the second polynucleotide sequence before crossing the first and second soybean plants.
12. A stably reproducing line of soybean plants produced according to the method of claim 1, wherein the stability of progeny is assessed by a population of progeny including at least 2500 seeds present an oleic acid content of between about 65% to about 85% determined as a percentage of total fatty acid content.
14. The method of claim 1 further comprising crossing the progeny to produce a recombinant inbred line.
15. A recombinant inbred soybean line produced according to the method of claim 14.
16. A stably reproducing population of soybean seeds having one or more mutations in a first and a second polynucleotide sequence wherein the first polynucleotide sequence encodes for expression of FAD2-1A SEQ ID NO: 5 and the second polynucleotide sequence encodes for expression FAD2-1B SEQ ID NO: 6 , wherein seed from said plant has about 65% to about 85% oleic acid content.
17. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein the first polynucleotide sequence of has at least 95% identity determined as sequence homology with a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4

18. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein the second polynucleotide sequence of has at least 95% identity determined as sequence homology with a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein the one or more mutations interfere with a function of a protein encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence encoding FAD2-1A and the second polynucleotide sequence encoding FAD2-1B.

20. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein the one or more mutations result in a loss of function and/or reduced activity of a protein encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence and the second polynucleotide sequence.

21. The soybean seeds of claim 16, wherein a mutation in the second polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1B polypeptide includes at least one mutation selected from the group consisting of:

- a. a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 137
- b. a non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 143

22. The soybean seeds of claim 21 wherein the at least one mutation in the polypeptide comprises a polar amino acid.

23. The soybean seeds of claim 22 wherein the polar amino acid is selected from the group consisting of: arginine, glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, asparagine, tyrosine, glutamine, lysine and histidine.

24. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein the mutation in the first polynucleotide sequence encoding a FAD2-1A polypeptide includes at least one mutation comprising at least one non-conserved amino acid substitution at amino acid position 117.

25. The soybean seeds of claim 24 wherein the at least one non-conserved amino acid substitution is asparagine.

26. The soybean seeds of claim 16 wherein one or more amino acid substitutions that result in a loss of function or a reduced activity of the protein.

encoded by the first polynucleotide sequence and the second polynucleotide sequence were predicted.

27. The soybean seeds of claim 16, wherein progeny, derived from a cross of said soybean plant, and a second soybean plant, stably inherit a trait, said trait comprising seed having an oleic acid content of between about 65% to about 85% .

28. The soybean plant of claim 27 further comprising crossing the progeny to produce a recombinant inbred line.



FIG. 1A

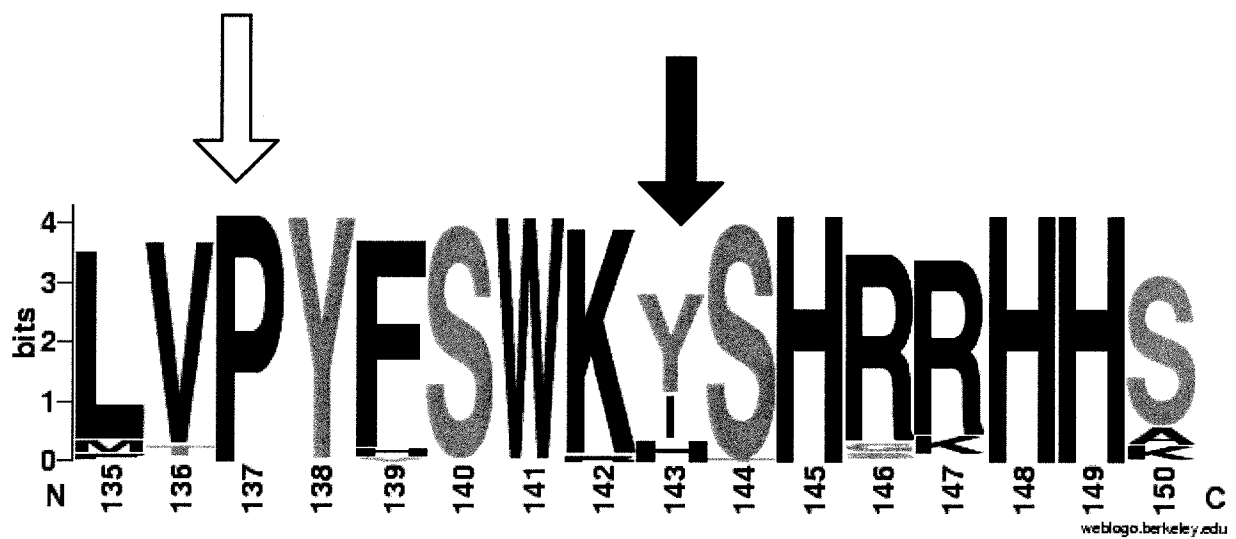
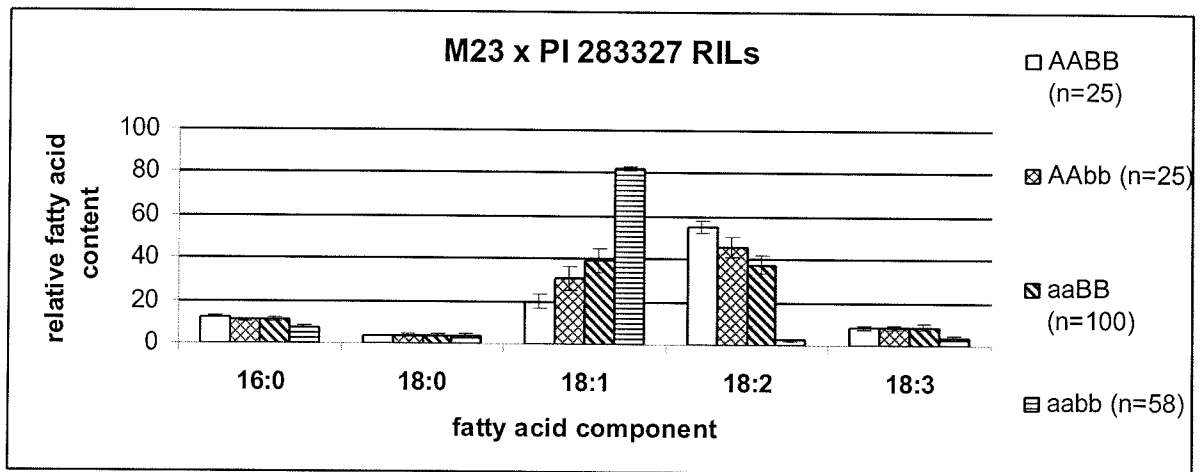
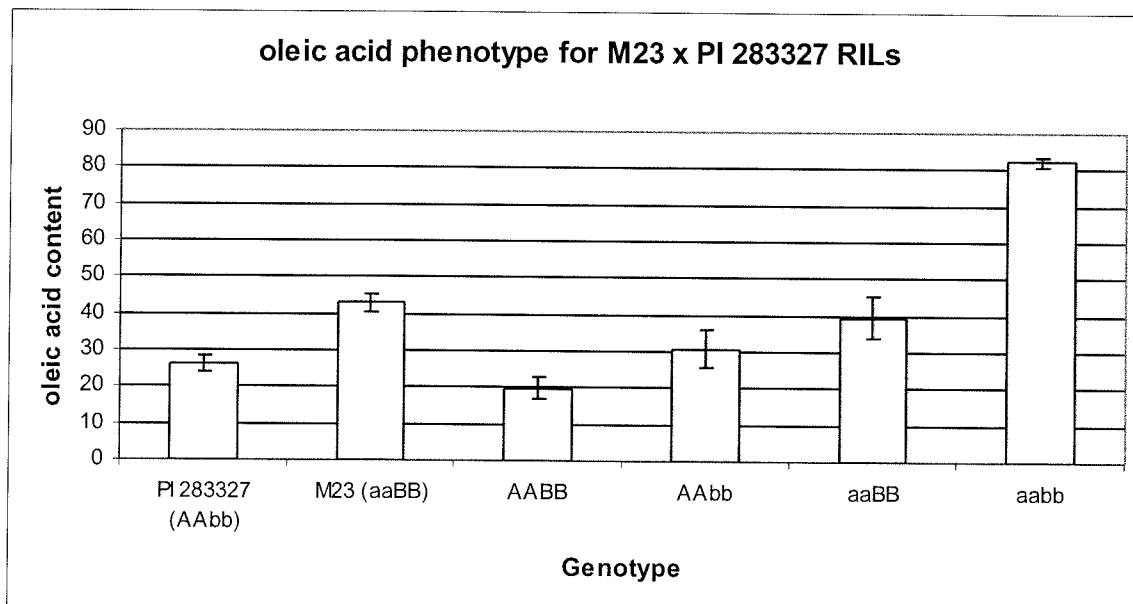
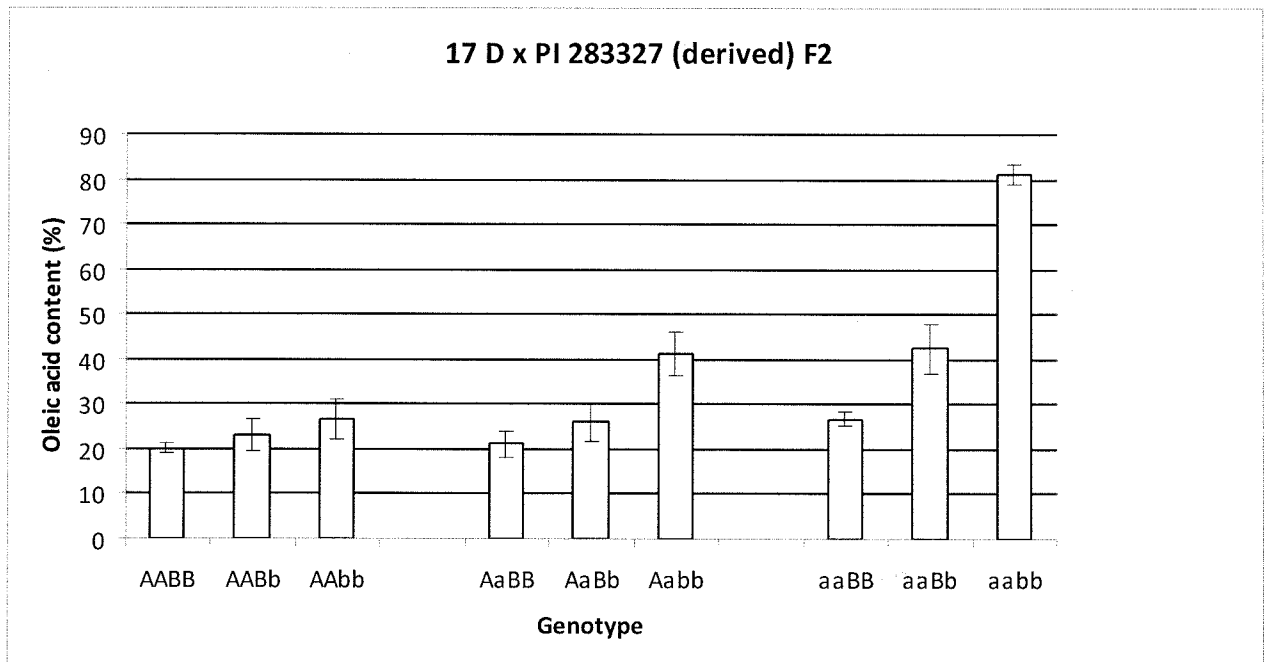
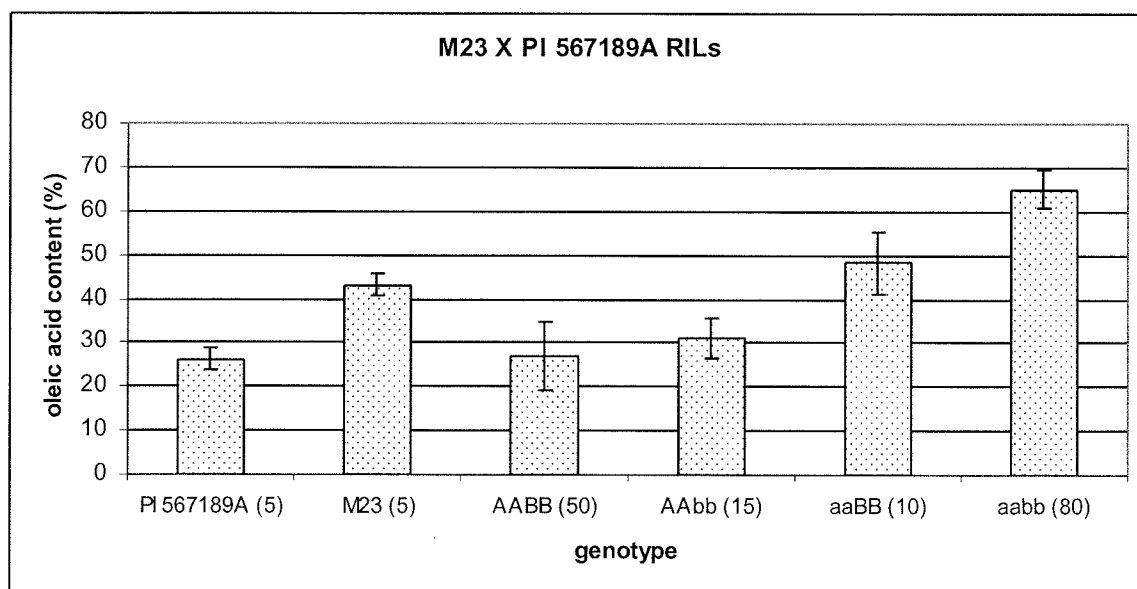


FIG. 1B

**FIG. 2****FIG. 3**

**FIG. 4****FIG. 5**

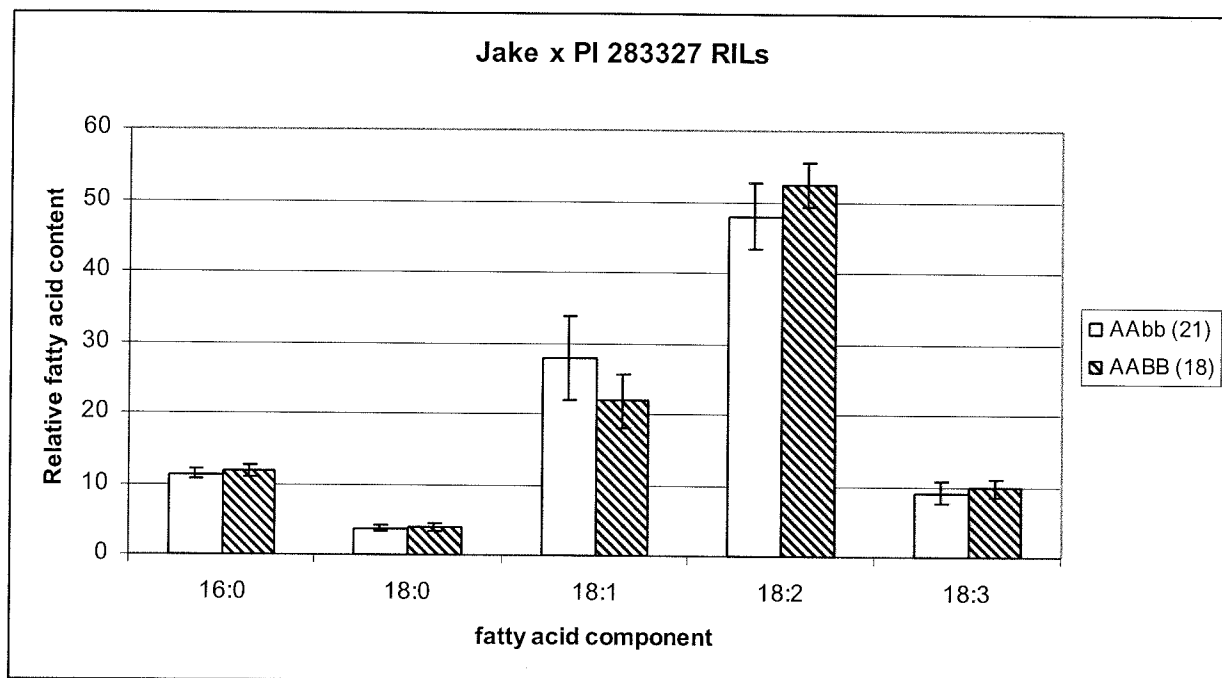


FIG. 6

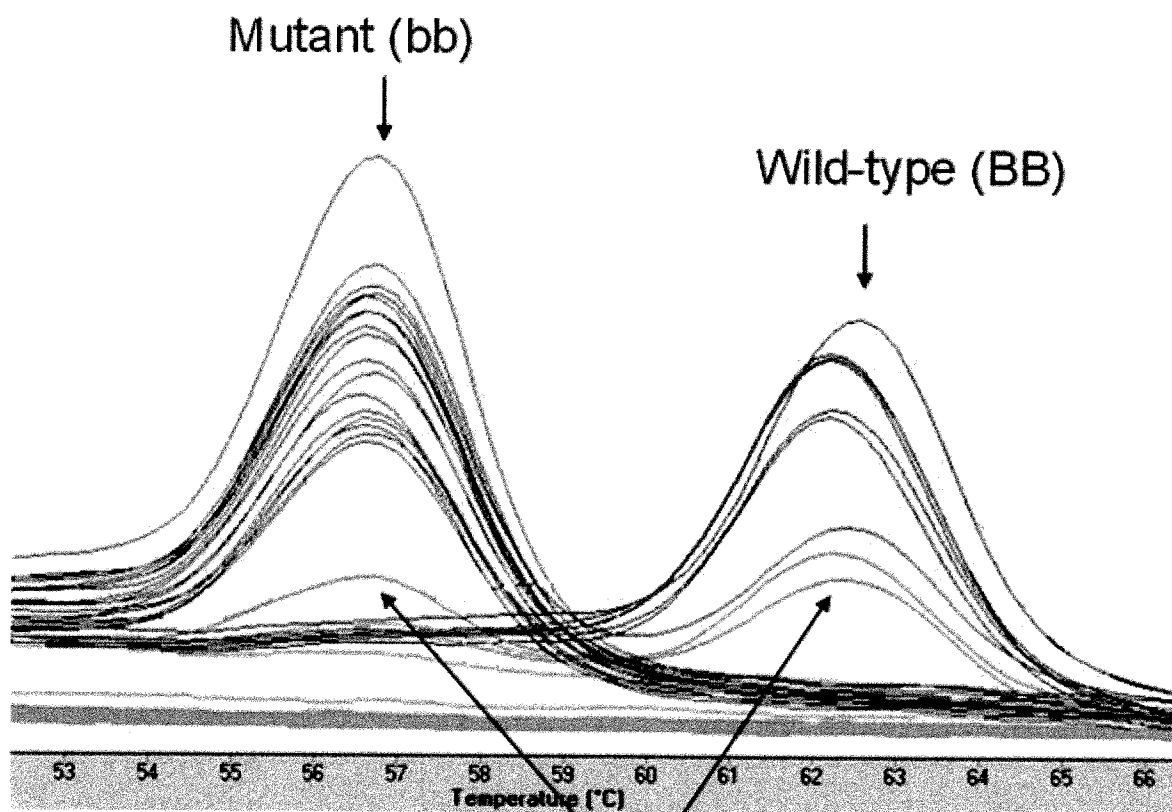


FIG. 7

5/6

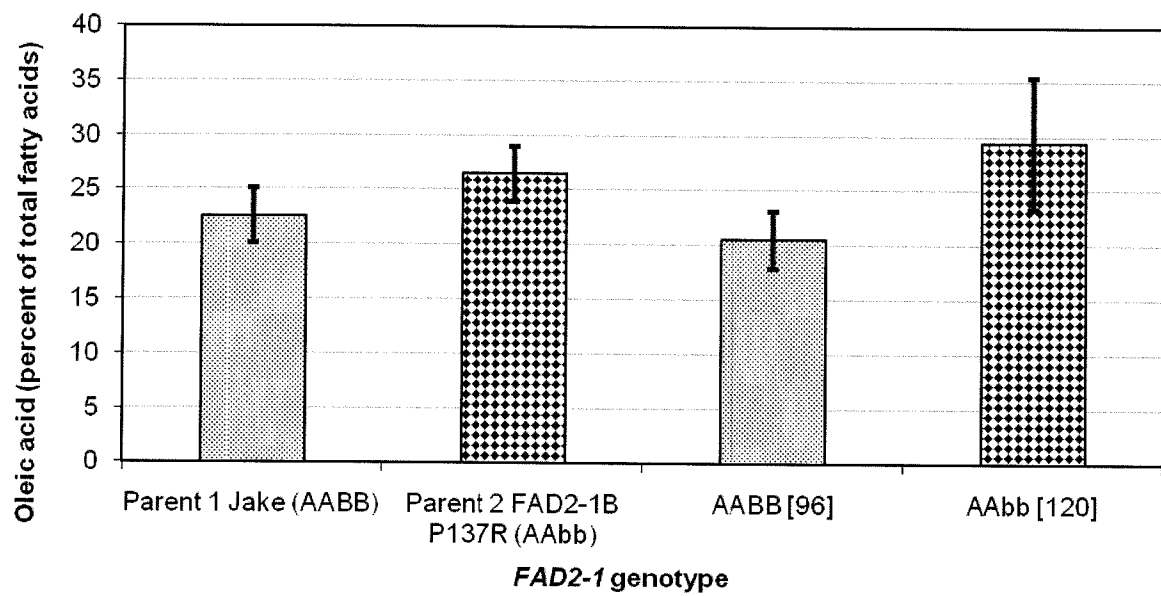


FIG. 8

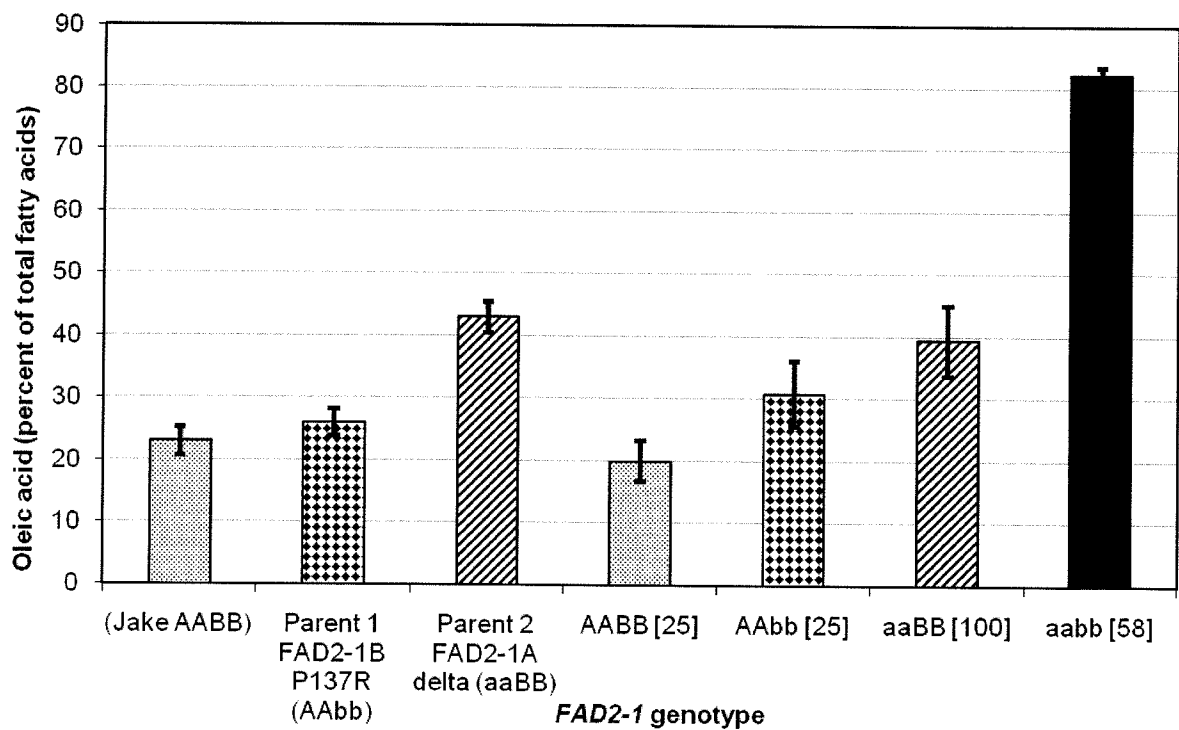
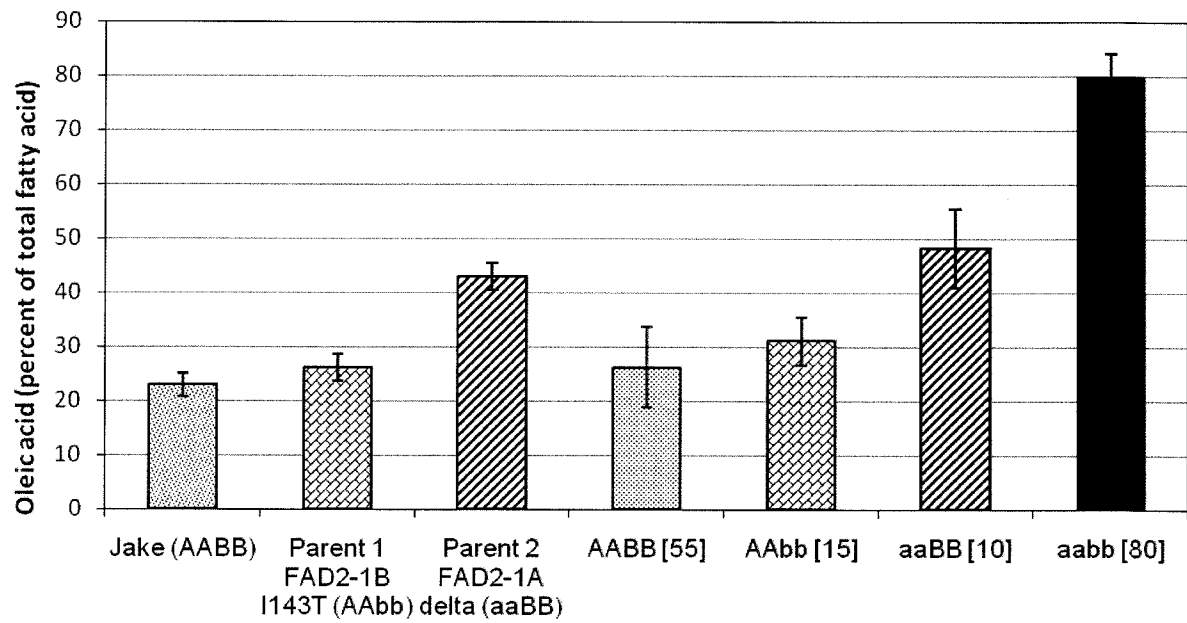


FIG. 9

**FIG. 10**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 10/41415

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A01H 1/00, A01H 3/00 (2010.01)

USPC - 800/264

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
USPC -- 800/264, 800/260, 435/166, 435/468, 435/410, 435/415

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WEST -- PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB; Dialog Classic Files -- 654, 652, 351, 349, 6, 35, 65, 155; Google Scholar; USPTO Web Page; Search terms -- soybean, seed, transformed, hybrid, substitution mutant, delta-12 desaturase, inbred progeny, stable transformation, FAS2-1A, FAS2-1B, S117N, P137R, I143T, oleic acid increase

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y -- A	US 2005/0262589 A1 (FILLATTI) 24 November 2005 (24.11.2005) para [0014], [0015], [0064], [0074], [0137], [0156], [0160], [0169], [0174]-[0178], [0214]	1-5, 11, 12, 14-20, 26-28 ----- 6-10, 21-25
Y -- A	TANG, G-Q, et al. Oleate desaturase enzymes of soybean: evidence of regulation through differential stability and phosphorylation. The Plant Journal, November 2005, Vol 44, No 3, pages 433-446; abstract; pg 440, col1, para 1; pg 441, col 1, para 2,3, Fig 7	1-5, 11, 12, 14-20, 26-28 ----- 6-10, 21-25
Y -- A	US 2004/0034888 A1 (LIU et al.) 19 February 2004 (19.02.2004) para [0018], [0021], SEQ ID NOS: 8015, 8035	1-5, 11, 12, 14-20, 26-28 ----- 6-10, 21-25
A, P	DEWEY, R.E. et al. MOLECULAR ANALYSIS OF SOYBEAN GERMPLASM POSSESSING UNIQUE SEED OIL PHENOTYPES. 30 September 2009, downloaded from the internet, 30 August 2010 at: www.reeis.usda.gov/web/crisprojectpages/216079.html; pg 3, para 1	6-8, 21-23
A, P	DIERKING, E.C., et al. New sources of soybean seed meal and oil composition traits identified through TILLING. BMC Plant Biology, 14 July 2009, Vol. 9, pages 89-99; pg 92, col 1, para 3	9, 10, 24, 25

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 August 2010 (31.08.2010)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 SEP 2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 10/41415

Box No. I Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.c of the first sheet)

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of a sequence listing filed or furnished:

a. (means)

☐

on paper

☒

in electronic form

b. (time)

☒

in the international application as filed

☐

together with the international application in electronic form

☐

subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search

2. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

3. Additional comments: