

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid molecule of interest, which is operably linked to a terminator, further comprising a heterologous intron that enhances expression of the nucleic acid molecule of interest, wherein the heterologous intron is heterologous to at least one of the nucleic acid molecule of interest, the promoter, and the terminator, and, wherein the heterologous intron is selected from the group comprised of SEQUENCE ID NO. 5.
2. (Original) The expression cassette of claim 1 wherein the promoter and terminator originate from a common gene locus.
3. (Original) A recombinant vector comprising the expression cassette of claim 1.
4. (Original) A transgenic plant cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 1.
5. (Original) A transgenic plant or progeny thereof comprising the transgenic plant cell of claim 4.
6. (Original) A transgenic plant according to claim 5, wherein said plant is a monocot plant.
7. (Original) A transgenic plant according to claim 6, wherein said plant is a maize plant.
8. (Currently Amended) Seed from the transgenic plant of claim 7, wherein the seed comprises the expression cassette or is a part of the transgenic plant.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a protein in a plant cell the method comprising introducing the expression cassette of claim 1 into the plant cell under conditions whereby the nucleic acid molecule of interest is expressed to produce a protein.
12. (Original) A method of producing a protein in a plant cell, the method comprising introducing the expression cassette of claim 1 into the plant cell under conditions whereby the nucleic acid molecule of interest is expressed to produce a protein.
13. (Cancelled)