consisting of feeding by the pest, viability of the pest, pest cell apoptosis, differentiation and development of the pest or any pest cell, sexual reproduction by the pest, muscle formation, muscle twitching, muscle contraction, juvenile hormone formation and/or reduction, juvenile hormone regulation, ion regulation and transport, maintenance of cell membrane potential, amino acid biosynthesis, amino acid degradation, sperm formation, pheromone synthesis, pheromone sensing, antennae formation, wing formation, leg formation, egg formation, larval maturation, digestive enzyme formation, haemolymph synthesis, haemolymph maintenance, neurotransmission, larval stage transition, pupation, emergence from pupation, cell division, energy metabolism, respiration, cytoskeletal structure synthesis and maintenance, nucleotide metabolism, nitrogen metabolism, water use, water retention, and sensory perception.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the insect pest is a corn rootworm pest selected from the group consisting of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi* (Southern Corn Rootworm (SCR)), *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (Western Corn Rootworm (WCR)), *Diabrotica barberi* (Northern Corn Rootworm (NCR)), *Diabrotica virgifera zea* (Mexican Corn Rootworm (MCR)), *Diabrotica balteata* (Brazilian Corn Rootworm (BZR)), *Diabrotica viridula* (Brazilian Corn Rootworm (BZR)), and *Diabrotica speciosa* (Brazilian Corn Rootworm (BZR)).

31. A method for improving the drought tolerance of a crop produced from a crop plant subjected to insect pest infestation, said method comprising the steps of,

a) introducing a polynucleotide according to claim 1 into said crop plant,

b) cultivating the crop plant to allow the expression of said polynucleotide, wherein expression of the polynucleotide inhibits feeding by insects pests and loss of drought tolerance due to pest infestation.

32. A method of producing a commodity product comprising obtaining a plant according to claim 12 or a part thereof, and preparing a commodity product from the plant or part thereof.

33. A method of producing food or feed, comprising obtaining a plant according to claim 12 or a part thereof and preparing food or feed from said plant or part thereof.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the food or feed is defined as oil, meal, protein, starch, flour or silage.

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