**Supplementary Table S3.** Primers used for qRT-PCR amplification of candidate genes.

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| Gene name | Forward primer (5'-3') | Reverse primer (5'-3') |
| *Zm00001d050021* | AGCCTACGAGGAGAACGATG | GCCTCAGGCTCTCCAAGATA |
| *Zm00001d010454* | TACATCAACCCCTCCTCTGG | CCTGCTGAACCCACACTTTT |
| *Zm00001d010458* | TTGGTTCAAATGGGGTCAAT | GAACAAGGCCTCCATCATGT |
| *Zm00001d010459* | AGAATGCCACCACCACAAAT | GTTTGTGGCAACCAAGGACT |
| *ZmActin1* | TTGTCCTCAGTGGGGGATCT | CTTTCAGGTGGCGCAATCAC |