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Combinatorial interaction of two adjacent *cis*-active promoter regions mediates the synergistic induction of *Bt2* gene by sucrose and ABA in maize endosperm

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Highlights

- Sucrose and ABA synergistically increase the starch content and AGPase activity of maize endosperm.
- The *Bt2* promoter regions -370/-186 and -186/-43 are involved in sucrose and ABA response, respectively.
- ABA response in the promoter region (-186/-43) requires the presence of the sucrose-responsive region (-370/-186).
- The combination of both of the promoter regions (-370/-186 and -186/-43) mediates the synergistic induction from sucrose and ABA on *Bt2* expression.