Supplementary Information

Table S1. The abbreviations of the specific protein names in the protein-protein interaction networks.

| Abbreviation | Accession Number | Protein Name | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--|
| | in Sorghum Bicolor | | |
| 1-Cys Prx | Sb02g040650.1 | 1-Cys peroxiredoxin antioxidant | |
| ABR | Sb08g014070.1 | ABA-responsive protein | |
| AS | Sb01g037570.1 | Argininosuccinate synthase | |
| DLD | Sb09g004430.1 | Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase | |
| EAP1 | Sb09g016810.1 | Embryonic abundant protein 1 | |
| FIB2 | Sb04g037640.1 | Fibrillarin-2 | |
| G6P1E | Sb06g031360.1 | Glucose-6-phosphate 1-epimerase-like | |
| GBP | Sb09g029250.1 | GTP-binding nuclear protein Ran-A1 | |
| GPX | Sb06g024920.1 | Glutathione peroxidase | |
| GRP 2b | Sb06g029650.1 | Glycine-rich protein 2b | |
| GT30 | Sb01g030780.1 | Glutathione transferase30 | |
| HDAC6 | Sb08g016307.1 | histone deacetylase 6 | |
| HSP | Sb07g028270.1 | HSP protein | |
| HSP82 | Sb06g000660.1 | Heat shock protein HSP82 | |
| IVD | Sb09g002260.1 | Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase | |
| Lea14-A | Sb03g001170.1 | Late embryogenesis abundant protein Lea14-A | |
| MnSOD | Sb09g011450.1 | Mn-superoxide dismutase | |
| NAD-IDH1 | Sb04g024840.1 | Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] regulatory subunit | |
| Oleosin 16 | Sb06g024350.1 | Oleosin 16 | |
| PSMA | Sb01g045210.1 | Proteasome subunit alpha type | |
| PSMA1 | Sb04g002770.1 | Proteasome subunit alpha type 1 | |
| QM | Sb01g015470.1 | QM-like protein | |
| RP- L7a | Sb02g029380.1 | 60S ribosomal protein L7a | |
| RP-S18 | Sb01g005360.1 | 40S ribosomal protein S18 | |
| RPS6-2 | Sb08g015010.1 | Ribosomal protein s6 RPS6-2 | |
| RP-S8 | Sb06g004770.1 | 40S ribosomal protein S8 | |
| SDH | Sb02g002570.1 | Sorbitol dehydrogenase homolog1 | |
| Serpin-ZXA | Sb01g014740.1 | Serpin-ZXA-like | |
| SMP-PM41 | Sb03g029840.1 | Seed maturation protein PM41 | |
| SOD-4A | Sb01g035350.1 | Superoxide dismutase-4A | |
| SUS | Sb04g030600.1 | Sucrose synthase | |
| SUS2 | Sb06g000580.1 | Sucrose synthase2 | |
| TCP-1 | Sb05g022470.1 | TCP-1/cpn60 chaperonin family protein | |
| Trx H | Sb02g004850.1 | Thioredoxin H-type | |
| v-ESP | Sb01g012640.1 | Vicilin-like embryo storage protein | |

Table S2. Differential expressed proteins of kernels and abundance changes in two maize contrasting hybrid lines to drought between drought treatment and well-watered control.

| GI ^a | Protein Name ^b | Coverage (%) ^c /Peptide Fragments ^d | Fold Change (B73) ^e | Fold Change (Lo964) ^e |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Cell rescue/de | fense | | |
| 219363419 | Dehydrin | 23.0/6 | 1.64 ± 0.09 | -1.02 ± 0.13 |
| 295856 | RAB-17 | 37.5/10 | 1.36 ± 0.09 | 1.01 ± 0.25 |
| 226491145 | Late embryogenesis abundant protein Lea14-A | 74.3/17 | 1.46 ± 0.15 | 1.04 ± 0.14 |
| 195659191 | Embryonic abundant protein 1 | 84.6/25 | 1.47 ± 0.15 | -1.48 ± 0.08 |
| 226499304 | Pathogenesis-related protein 10 | 11.2/2 | 1.27 ± 0.08 | -1.30 ± 0.03 |
| 226531123 | Glycine-rich protein 2b | 44.2/3 | 1.61 ± 0.20 | 1.42 ± 0.09 |
| 226492587 | Stress-inducible membrane pore protein | 63.2/15 | 1.32 ± 0.07 | 1.01 ± 0.24 |
| 226496775 | Xylanase inhibitor protein 1 | 24.5/3 | 1.63 ± 0.04 | -1.31 ± 0.02 |
| 293332305 | Serpin-ZXA-like | 13.6/5 | 1.30 ± 0.05 | -1.02 ± 0.14 |
| 293335211 | Heavy-metal-associated domain-containing protein | 11.9/2 | 1.54 ± 0.52 | 1.00 ± 0.16 |
| 473187 | Protein kinase C inhibitor | 24.2/2 | -1.46 ± 0.04 | 1.06 ± 0.21 |
| 75994217 | Hageman factor inhibitor | 18.7/2 | -1.45 ± 0.03 | -1.02 ± 0.19 |
| | Redox homeos | stasis | | |
| 257333334 | glutathione transferase 30 | 21.2/8 | 1.40 ± 0.14 | -1.42 ± 0.02 |
| 48374955 | glutathione peroxidase | 44.0/8 | 1.33 ± 0.08 | -1.02 ± 0.16 |
| 226494622 | Glutathione S-transferase,-like protein | 19.8/3 | 1.44 ± 0.06 | 1.07 ± 0.21 |
| 257728955 | Grx_C2.2—glutaredoxin subgroup I | 69.9/8 | 1.26 ± 0.10 | 1.34 ± 0.09 |
| 87133468 | 1-Cys peroxiredoxin antioxidant | 76.4/57 | 1.32 ± 0.08 | 1.04 ± 0.18 |
| 195652835 | Thioredoxin H-type | 61.5/9 | 1.33 ± 0.09 | 1.04 ± 0.16 |
| 7548002 | Mn-superoxide dismutase | 47.6/18 | 1.59 ± 0.18 | 1.00 ± 0.20 |
| 6018746 | Superoxide dismutase-4A | 46.7/6 | 1.28 ± 0.06 | 1.07 ± 0.17 |
| 238008410 | NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase subunit B17.2 | 18.2/2 | 1.53 ± 0.01 | 1.13 ± 0.10 |
| 195655511 | NAD dependent epimerase/dehydratase | 24.3/2 | 1.64 ± 0.05 | 1.35 ± 0.07 |
| Hormone response | | | | |
| 226497210 | ABA-responsive protein | 23.5/5 | 1.46 ± 0.04 | 1.01 ± 0.19 |
| 226498678 | Ethylene-responsive protein | 28.7/6 | 1.50 ± 0.19 | 1.00 ± 0.17 |
| 226508662 | Ethylene-responsive protein | 27.2/7 | 1.49 ± 0.15 | 1.01 ± 0.08 |
| 301069326 | Auxin response factor 23 | 9.56/1 | 1.52 ± 0.19 | 1.35 ± 0.09 |
| 224028639 | Jasmonate-induced protein | 26.8/2 | -1.54 ± 0.008 | -1.31 ± 0.17 |
| Signal transduction | | | | |
| 229611800 | GTP-binding nuclear protein Ran-A1 | 40.1/11 | -1.35 ± 0.04 | -1.20 ± 0.01 |
| 226528736 | ATP/GTP binding protein | 16.1/4 | 1.34 ± 0.08 | 1.05 ± 0.18 |
| 255037841 | Histidine kinase | 7.52/2 | -1.51 ± 0.02 | 1.28 ± 0.11 |
| 226493048 | Nucleoside diphosphate kinase 4 | 23.5/4 | 1.35 ± 0.09 | 1.05 ± 0.20 |
| 254256262 | Pyruvate orthophosphate dikinase 1 | 23.0/12 | -2.11 ± 0.04 | -1.43 ± 0.05 |

Table S2. Cont.

| CI a | Duradada Nicora h | Coverage (%) c | Fold Change | Fold Change | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| GI ^a | Protein Name ^b | /Peptide Fragments ^d | (B73) ^e | (Lo964) ^e | |
| | Storage prote | eins | | | |
| 228310 | Globulin 2 | 77.6/156 | 1.07 ± 0.20 | -1.51 ± 0.12 | |
| 224030527 | Globulin 1 | 70.5/205 | 1.41 ± 0.10 | -1.10 ± 0.23 | |
| 195658011 | Globulin-1 S allele precursor | 77.6/152 | 1.63 ± 0.22 | 1.06 ± 0.02 | |
| 226500532 | Seed maturation protein PM41 | 18.0/9 | 1.42 ± 0.08 | 1.09 ± 0.25 | |
| 22284 | Vicilin-like embryo storage protein | 69.8/180 | -1.04 ± 0.33 | 1.46 ± 0.001 | |
| 330732090 | γ-zein | 2.27/1 | -1.67 ± 0.01 | -1.13 ± 0.006 | |
| | Protein biosynt | hesis | | | |
| 9931636 | Ribosomal protein s6 RPS6-2 | 23.1/5 | 1.65 ± 0.26 | -1.04 ± 0.29 | |
| 257667240 | 40S ribosomal protein S18 | 54.6/7 | 1.52 ± 0.09 | 1.07 ± 0.13 | |
| 6226702 | 40S ribosomal protein S8 | 33.5/7 | 1.81 ± 0.10 | -1.01 ± 0.23 | |
| 226502084 | 60S ribosomal protein L7a | 19.8/5 | 1.50 ± 0.14 | -1.05 ± 0.10 | |
| 258598734 | QM-like protein | 23.7/4 | 1.36 ± 0.08 | -1.01 ± 0.13 | |
| | Protein folding and | assembly | | | |
| 7546186 | Heat shock protein HSP82 | 23.1/9 | -1.65 ± 0.03 | 1.14 ± 0.08 | |
| 293331695 | HSP protein | 23.3/10 | -1.04 ± 0.21 | -1.51 ± 0.04 | |
| 54299342 | Mitochondrial small heat shock protein 22 | 44.0/7 | -1.01 ± 0.09 | -1.39 ± 0.02 | |
| 293335765 | TCP-1/cpn60 chaperonin family protein | 8.94/2 | 1.02 ± 0.13 | -1.34 ± 0.09 | |
| 453670 | Heat shock protein 26 | 57.5/9 | 1.00 ± 0.09 | -1.44 ± 0.07 | |
| 257745378 | Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase Family protein | 19.5/3 | 1.08 ± 0.23 | 1.29 ± 0.02 | |
| 226495869 | Histone deacetylase 6 | 6.49/2 | 1.45 ± 0.13 | -1.91 ± 0.09 | |
| 59861271 | Protein disulfide isomerase | 6.56/2 | 1.90 ± 0.29 | 1.08 ± 0.23 | |
| | Protein degrad | ation | | | |
| 224029787 | Proteasome subunit alpha type | 49.2/8 | 1.40 ± 0.12 | -1.26 ± 0.04 | |
| 226531007 | Proteasome subunit alpha type 1 | 22.3/7 | 1.32 ± 0.08 | -1.17 ± 0.02 | |
| | Carbohydrate met | abolism | | | |
| 22488 | Sucrose synthase | 22.8/10 | -1.73 ± 0.03 | -1.42 ± 0.06 | |
| 3342802 | Cytosolic 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase | 23.6/7 | 1.21 ± 0.04 | -1.39 ± 0.003 | |
| 226530488 | Glucose-6-phosphate 1-epimerase-like | 11.9/3 | 1.28 ± 0.05 | 1.02 ± 0.26 | |
| 194688844 | Sucrose synthase2 | 29.5/11 | 1.61 ± 0.15 | -1.01 ± 0.07 | |
| 293333951 | Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NAD] Regulatory subunit 1 | 20.9/4 | -1.10 ± 0.23 | -1.41 ± 0.14 | |
| 226504732 | Sorbitol dehydrogenase homolog1 | 56.2/27 | 2.08 ± 0.10 | 1.39 ± 0.05 | |
| 226499336 | Succinate dehydrogenase flavoprotein subunit | 12.9/2 | 1.45 ± 0.14 | 1.01 ± 0.24 | |
| 291047790 | Succinate semialdehyde dehydrogenase | 23.1/8 | 1.41 ± 0.12 | 1.10 ± 0.04 | |
| 257726331 | Cytokinin- <i>O</i> -glucosyltransferase 2 | 7.54/2 | 1.40 ± 0.04 | 1.08 ± 0.25 | |
| | Transcription f | | | | |
| 226496988 | Fibrillarin-2 | 20.5/2 | 1.51 ± 0.13 | -1.29 ± 0.15 | |
| 308081068 | AP2-EREBP-type transcription factor | 12.9/2 | 1.33 ± 0.06 | -1.04 ± 0.34 | |

Table S2. Cont.

| GI a | Protein Name ^b | Coverage (%) ^c /Peptide Fragments ^d | Fold Change (B73) ^e | Fold Change (Lo964) ° |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Amino acid and lipid | l metabolism | | |
| 227478191 | Argininosuccinate synthase | 12.3/3 | 1.78 ± 0.23 | 1.27 ± 0.08 |
| 293332891 | Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase | 13.0/2 | 1.77 ± 0.14 | 1.00 ± 0.31 |
| 195605626 | Oleosin 16 kDa | 41.0/14 | 1.32 ± 0.07 | -1.30 ± 0.003 |
| | Secondary metabolism | | | |
| 226500722 | Anthocyanidin 5,3-O-glucosyltransferase | 5.86/2 | 1.23 ± 0.02 | -1.33 ± 0.11 |
| 293335591 | Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase | 15.0/6 | 1.32 ± 0.11 | -1.06 ± 0.25 |
| 52699545 | Isopentenyl-diphosphate delta isomerase 2 | 8.72/2 | 1.47 ± 0.15 | -1.01 ± 0.06 |
| 596080 | Thiamine biosynthetic enzyme | 16.4/4 | 1.39 ± 0.12 | 1.57 ± 0.23 |
| Membrane and transport | | | | |
| 75278333 | Aquaporin TIP1-1 | 6.4/3 | 1.34 ± 0.09 | -1.08 ± 0.31 |
| 75308033 | Aquaporin TIP3-2 | 7.86/2 | 1.41 ± 0.05 | 1.84 ± 0.05 |
| 293332063 | Cytochrome b5 | 11.9/2 | -1.41 ± 0.11 | 1.25 ± 0.51 |
| Others and unknown | | | | |
| 226495887 | Adaptin ear-binding coat-associated protein 1 | 12.8/1 | 1.25 ± 0.04 | -1.33 ± 0.17 |
| 219363567 | Hypothetical protein LOC100217226 | 9.47/1 | -1.71 ± 0.10 | -1.35 ± 0.06 |
| 219363597 | Hypothetical protein LOC100216972 | 12.0/1 | 1.32 ± 0.13 | -1.77 ± 0.17 |
| 226528357 | Hypothetical protein LOC100278634 | 34.8/3 | 1.59 ± 0.18 | 1.08 ± 0.20 |

^a GI number in National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) genebank database; ^b The identified proteins were named according to the annotations in NCBI database. According to the comments in NCBI, many of these proteins were annotated based on homology evidence (Arabidopsis, rice, *etc.*). A protein with identify or significant homology to a known protein was annotated as the same name. A protein without any functional annotations was annotated as "hypothetical" protein; ^c Sequence coverage (%) is calculated by dividing the number of amino acids in the peptide fragments observed by the protein amino acid length; ^d Peptide fragments were referred to the number of matched peptide fragments generated by trypsin digestion; ^e Fold change is expressed as the ration of intensities of up-regulated (positive value) or down-regulated (negative value) proteins between drought stress treatments and control (well-water condition). Fold change SD is presented as mean standard deviation (SD).

Table S3. The results of protein level FDR analyses from two biological replicates. The FDR analysis was performed using the Proteomics System Performance Evaluation Pipeline integrated with the ProteinPilot.

| | Number of Proteins Detected | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Critical FDR | Local FDR | Global FDR | Global FDR from Fit | | |
| | Bio | ological replicate 1 | | | |
| 1.0% | 648 | 705 | 706 | | |
| 5.0% | 671 | 763 | 762 | | |
| 10.0% | 681 | 824 | 827 | | |
| | Bio | ological replicate 2 | | | |
| 1.0% | 624 | 670 | 668 | | |
| 5.0% | 633 | 719 | 732 | | |
| 10.0% | 638 | 809 | 807 | | |

Figure S1. A heat map of protein expression (red, high expression; green, low expression) in response to drought stress in kernels of the tolerant maize genotype Lo964 and the sensitive maize genotype B73. Group-I refers to the abundances of proteins increased in both two genotypes under drought stress conditions, but relatively lower increase degree in maize drought-sensitive line B73; the abundances of the group-II proteins increased in B73 and no obvious changes in Lo964, but relatively higher increase degree in drought-sensitive line maize B73; proteins of group-III showed decreased trends in Lo964 and a high decrease degree in Lo964 than in B73; those of group-IV had an increase profile in Lo964 but decrease one in B73, the proteins of this group showed a much great degree changes between two genotypes.

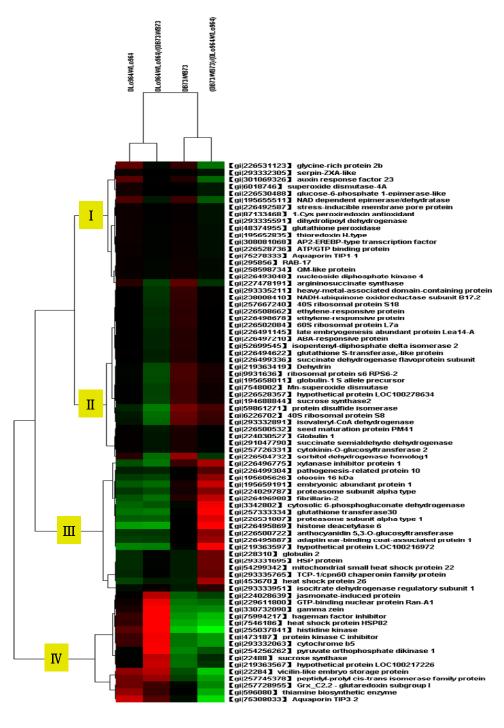
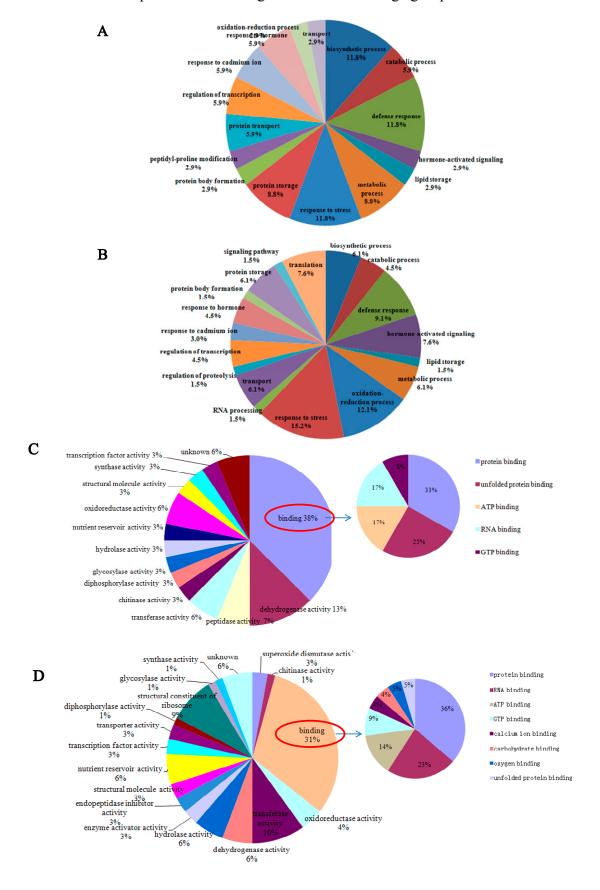
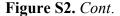


Figure S2. Gene Ontology (GO) analyses of drought-responsive proteins in the kernels of Lo964 (**A**,**C**,**E**) and B73 (**B**,**D**,**F**). All identified proteins were included and presented in biological process (**A**,**B**), molecular function (**C**,**D**) and cellular component (**E**,**F**). The red circles in **C** and **D** represent the re-categorization of "binding" group.





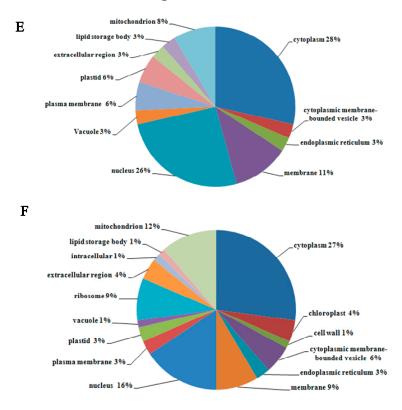


Figure S3. ROS generation and scavenging pathways associated with proteins in maize kernels that were up- or down regulated under drought stress treatments. Superoxide was generated by NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase (UOR), and further dismutated to hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) by superoxide dismutase (SOD). H₂O₂ can be scavenged by glutathione peroxidase (GPX) and reduced 1-Cys peroxiredoxin antioxidant (1-Cys Prx) using thioredoxin H-type (Trx-H) as electron donors. H₂O₂ and reduced monomeric glutathione were also catalyzed by GPX to decrease H₂O₂ level. Glutathione *S*-transferase (GST) and glutathione transferase30 (GT30) catalyze the conjugation of the reduced form of glutathione (GSH) to xenobiotic substrates for the purpose of detoxification. During this process, glutaredoxin (Grx), as a redox enzyme, was reduced by the oxidation of glutathione. Red and green arrows indicated the up-regulated or down-regulated trends of proteins under drought stress in maize genotypes B73 and Lo964, respectively.

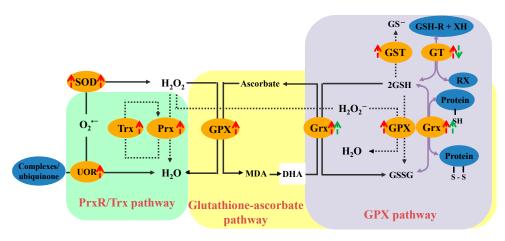


Figure S4. Transcription and protein metabolic processes associated with proteins in response to drought stress in kernels of the sensitive maize genotype B73 and the tolerant maize genotype Lo964. Blue and green arrows indicated the up-regulated or down-regulated trends of proteins under drought stress in maize genotypes B73 and Lo964, respectively. The red arrows represent the flow direction of genetic information.

