



Datuk Dr. Choo Yuen May obtained her BSc and MSc from the University of Waikato, New Zealand in 1978 and 1979 respectively. After spending two and a half years as a lecturer at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Datuk Dr. Choo joined the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM), now Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) in July 1982 as a Research Officer. She obtained her PhD in Chemistry from the University of Malaya in 1987 and Executive MBA (Master of Business Administration) from the Asian Institute of Management, Philippines in 1999.

Datuk Dr. Choo was the Director-General of MPOB prior to her retirement in 2016 with more than 34 years of experience in the oil palm industry. She has over 940 scientific publications and 71 patents. She has made major contributions to research and development (R&D), management of R&D and to the Malaysian palm oil industry by expanding more palm oil uses, increasing more palm oil consumption and market share overseas, thus bringing in more revenue and foreign exchange for the country. Her wider ranging work and research in elevating the palm oil industry has led MPOB to greater heights and have significant impact on Malaysia.

Datuk Dr. Choo is recognised internationally for her pioneering work in the field of palm biodiesel which provides a floor price for palm oil, and the development of novel, efficient and green processes for the palm-based industry. Many of her R&D findings have been successfully commercialised, including the production of palm biodiesels, carotene rich red palm oil with the tradename Carotino, palm carotenes and tocotrienol concentrates. B7 (7% palm biodiesel and 93% petroleum diesel blends) has been implemented in Malaysia to replace 100% petroleum diesel in transport sector since 2014 as a result of PORIM/MPOB research findings on biodiesel. During her tenure as Director-General, MPOB has made research breakthrough in a number of areas including biotechnology (palm genome), palm oil nutrition and phytonutrients, oil palm yield productivity, palm oil food and non-food uses, and sustainability (Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil(MSPO); Life Cycle Analysis).

Datuk Dr Choo has been honoured with more than 100 international and national scientific and invention accolades including the Malaysia's prestigious Merdeka Award for Health, Science & Technology, the Knight of the International Order of Merit of Inventors from the International Federation of Inventors' Association(IFIA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization(WIPO) Gold Medal for Best Women Inventor . She is a Fellow of six Academy/Associations including the esteemed Academy of Sciences Malaysia and ASEAN Academy of Engineering & Technology. The University of South Wales recognised her outstanding contribution to science by awarding her an Honorary Doctorate of Science in 2014.

Datuk Dr. Choo served in numerous governmental boards, committees and professional societies at national and international levels. She was the President of International Society for Fat Research (ISF) (2015-2016). Currently, she sits on the board of a public listed company as an independent Non-Executive Director. She is appointed as an Honorary Distinguished Researcher by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, People's Republic of China and a member of Board of Trustee, Malaysian Palm Oil Certification Council (MPOCC), She is also the Vice President of Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS)