

RESUME: RAVIGADEVI SAMBANTHAMURTHI

Dr. Ravigadevi Sambanthamurthi is a Research Consultant with the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and Honorary Professor of Plant Biotechnology, University of Nottingham, Malaysia. She was the former Director of the Advanced Biotechnology and Breeding Centre of MPOB. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, Member of MENSA and Founding and Council member of the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS). An important milestone in her research was her discovery that the oil palm fruit is a rich source of phenolic bioactives and these enter the waste stream during palm oil milling. Together with her team, she developed and patented a process for extracting these bioactives and went on to confirm their anti-inflammatory, cardio-protective, and anti-diabetic properties among others. Dr. Sambanthamurthi led the team that successfully sequenced and published the oil palm genome sequence making this the first publicly available oil palm genome reference in the world. She has numerous publications including three in Nature and one in Nature Communications as corresponding author on mapping of the oil palm genome and discovery of various genes of economic and environmental importance. Dr. Sambanthamurthi's team has successfully translated several projects into commercial outcomes with significant economic, environmental and social impact. Chief among these are the technologies on palm phenolic bioactives and the genome technologies. A good IP portfolio is essential for commercialisation of any technology on a global scale. Dr. Sambanthamurthi has more than 35 patents to her credit. She was honoured as Intel Environment Laureate under Tech Museum Awards, USA for the Phenolics Project in recognition of "individuals and organisations whose ideas and execution are changing the world" and Knight of the International Order of Merit of Inventors by the International Federation of Inventors Association. She received the Rotary Gold Award for Excellence in Scientific Research. She was a nominee for the 2014 BIO Rosalind Franklin Award for Leadership. Her team won gold medals at the 17th International Expo on Inventions and Innovation, Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2018, the International Innovation and Exhibition (ITEX) 2016, ITEX 2014, Biotechnology Asia Innovation Awards in Agriculture/Agrobased Industry and the 30th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products, Geneva, Switzerland.