



**MALAYSIAN PALM OIL
SCIENTIFIC SERIES**



M P O C
MALAYSIAN PALM OIL COUNCIL



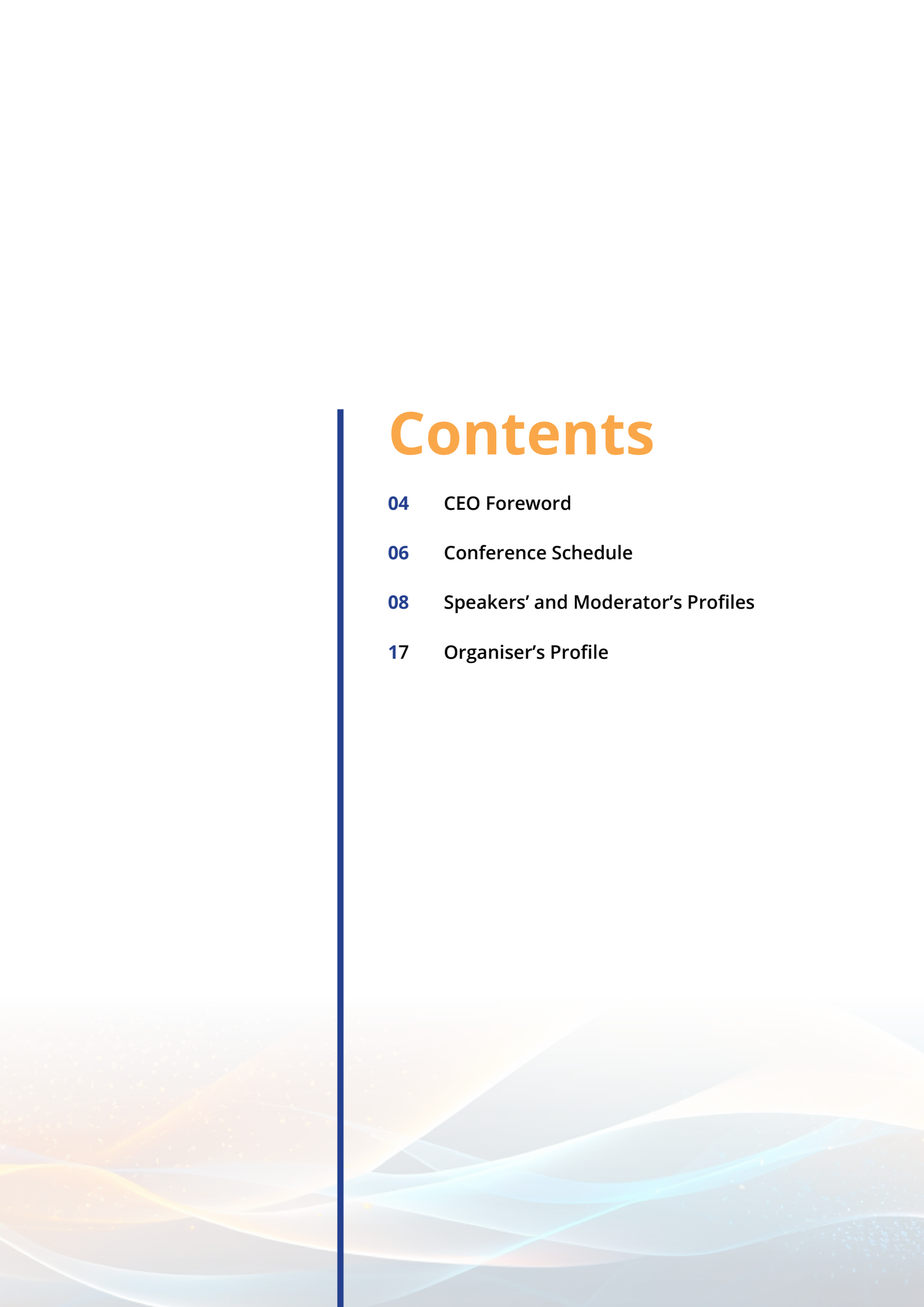
From
PLANTATION TO PLATE
Palm Bioactives in Health Innovation

8 OCTOBER 2026

Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME





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CEO Foreword



Ms Belvinder Sron

Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Palm Oil Council

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Malaysian Palm Oil Scientific Series 2026 (MPOSS 2026), themed “From Plantation to Plate: Palm Bioactives in Health Innovation.” Held following the Malaysian Palm Oil Forum Kuala Lumpur, MPOSS complements the broader perspectives on markets, trade, policy and sustainability with a focused examination of the science, nutrition and health dimensions of Malaysian palm oil.

For generations, palm oil has been an important source of food, nutrition and economic livelihood for millions of people. Today, advances in science are enabling us to look beyond its established role as a versatile dietary fat and deepen our understanding of the naturally occurring bioactive compounds found in the palm oil, including tocotrienols, carotenoids, phytosterols and other phytonutrients. This expanding body of knowledge broadens the possibilities for palm oil and its bioactives within health, nutrition and the foods of the future.

This scientific progress comes at an important time. Ageing populations, the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and rising consumer interest in foods that offer benefits beyond basic nutrition are accelerating interest in functional foods, nutraceuticals and naturally derived bioactive ingredients. For Malaysia, these developments present an opportunity to move beyond the traditional commodity model and build a broader ecosystem encompassing high-value ingredients, functional foods, nutraceuticals and health-oriented innovation.

Realising this potential, however, demands scientific rigour. Credible research, responsible claims, regulatory compliance and clear communication are fundamental to translating scientific potential into meaningful innovation. In an increasingly discerning marketplace, credibility must be built from the outset through transparent evidence, robust quality standards and disciplined communication. Consumers are better informed, regulators more exacting, and businesses increasingly seek ingredients that are functional, traceable, sustainable and trusted.

MPOSS 2026 brings these priorities into focus by examining how science can support higher-value applications for palm oil, including the stronger positioning of palm tocotrienols. The programme spans dietary science, regulatory compliance, delivery systems, nutritional values and health potentials, connecting perspectives across the pathway from research and formulation to product development, market acceptance and consumer trust. The future competitiveness of palm oil will depend not only on high yield but also on how intelligently we create value from what we produce.

Advancing this agenda requires us to build on established knowledge while remaining clear about the work that lies ahead. We must identify evidence gaps, define future research priorities, deepen investigation into promising palm bioactives and translate laboratory findings into meaningful human evidence. Equally important is strengthening the pathway that connects the plantation to science and innovation, and ultimately to the plate.

On behalf of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, I extend my appreciation to our speakers, moderator, panellists and participants for contributing to this inaugural series. I trust that MPOSS 2026 will provide a meaningful foundation for continued knowledge exchange, stronger collaboration and scientific advancement.

The value of this platform will ultimately extend beyond the discussions held here. It lies in the knowledge we continue to build, the evidence we strengthen and our collective ability to translate scientific progress into responsible innovation. May MPOSS 2026 mark the beginning of a sustained scientific dialogue that helps shape the next chapter of Malaysian palm oil innovation.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Programme

Time	Programme
08:30 – 09:30 hrs	Registration & Morning Refreshments
09:30 – 09:45 hrs	Opening & Welcome Remarks by Ms Belvinder Sron Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)
09:45– 10:15 hrs	Keynote Paper: From Commodity to Wellness Ingredient: How Palm Oil Drives Growth in the Global Health and Nutrition Market Mr Nikhil Vallabhan Director, Chemicals Materials & Nutrition, Frost & Sullivan
10:15-10:45 hrs	Positioning Palm Tocotrienols for Market Success: Consumer Trends, Branding, and Commercial Strategies Mr WH Leong Consultant, Prajna Management Pvt Ltd
10:45-11:00 hrs	Break
11:00-11:30 hrs	Palm Bioactive Compounds for Health Functions Prof Emer Dr Pavinee Chinachoti President-Elect of IUFOST
11:30-12:00 hrs	Navigating the Regulatory Landscape: Ensuring Compliance for Palm Tocotrienols in Functional Foods Dr Tee E Siong Immediate Past President NSM, Adjunct Professor, IMU University
12:00-13:00 hrs	Networking Lunch
13:00-13:30 hrs	Translating Science into Market-Ready Products: Formulation, Stability & Delivery Strategies Ms Kawsalyavathi Kuppan Head, Product Innovation & Development (Acting), SD Guthrie Technology Centre Sdn Bhd
13:30-14:00 hrs	Tocotrienols Neuroprotection, from Bench to Consumer Evidence Dr Yap Wei Ney Head of Biological Research, Davos Life Science Pte Ltd
14:00-14:30 hrs	Palm-Based Diacylglycerol Oils as Functional Lipids: Opportunities in Nutraceutical and Functional Food Development Prof Dr Tan Chin Ping Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia
14:30 – 15:30 hrs	Forum Discussion: Charting the Future of Palm Tocotrienols in Functional Nutrition Moderator: Ms Micole Goh Principal & ESG Lead, Ipsos Strategy3 Panellists: • Prof Emer Dr Pavinee Chinachoti, President-Elect of IUFOST • Dr Tee E Siong, Immediate Past President NSM, Adjunct Professor, IMU University • Prof Dr Tan Chin Ping, Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia
15:30 hrs onwards	Tea/End of Programme

Agenda and topics are subject to change without prior notice.

A photograph of a person with blonde hair, seen from the back, standing at a clear acrylic podium. They are wearing a light-colored blazer and have their hands on a document. A gooseneck microphone is positioned in front of them. The background is a large, out-of-focus crowd of people, suggesting a conference or public event. The lighting is warm and ambient.

SPEAKERS' AND MODERATOR'S PROFILES

Speakers' Profiles



Mr Nikhil Vallabhan

Director, Chemicals Materials & Nutrition,
Frost & Sullivan

Nikhil Vallabhan is a Director in the Chemicals, Materials & Nutrition practice at Frost & Sullivan, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has more than 15 years of experience across the oleochemicals, petrochemicals, and downstream products sectors. At Frost & Sullivan, he provides strategic consulting to companies in the oleochemicals and palm oil sectors across Asia Pacific, with

expertise in geographic expansion, go-to-market strategies, technology due diligence, start-up identification and investment, long-term R&D and formulation, and strategic roadmaps. Nikhil holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Asian Institute of Management in Manila, Philippines, and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Manipal University, India.

Speakers' Profiles



Mr WH Leong

Consultant, Prajna Management Pvt Ltd

Mr. WH Leong holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Fermentation Technology with First Class Honours from Universiti Sains Malaysia. He was the recipient of the Chancellor's Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Leong began his career as an engineer with FELDA Procter & Gamble in Pahang, Malaysia. He was a member of the start-up team, responsible for the commissioning of P&G's largest oleochemical plant outside the United States. In 1993, he joined Carotech, as its first employee and successfully led to the setup and commissioning of the world's first commercial plant to extract palm phytonutrients from crude palm oil.

In 1999, Mr. Leong relocated to New Jersey, USA, where he spearheaded efforts and initiatives to introduce palm phytonutrients - particularly tocotrienols - to the North American market. Paving the way and under his leadership, palm-based tocotrienol complex became one of the most sought-after tocotrienol sources in the US.

Mr. Leong returned to Malaysia in 2015 to assume the role of CEO of ExcelVite (formerly Carotech). He successfully led the turnaround of the financially-distressed company, restoring profitability within the

first year and achieving RM178 million in sales by FY2020. In addition to his role as CEO, he oversaw global sales and marketing for ExcelVite. He left ExcelVite in 2021.

With over 30 years of experience in the natural phytonutrients, dietary supplement, cosmetic, and functional food industries, Mr. Leong brings extensive expertise in:

- **Production, Process Engineering, R&D, Regulatory & Sales/Marketing of Palm Phytonutrients:** Technical knowledge in production, process optimization, research and development, and regulatory affairs as well as sales & marketing of palm phytonutrients.
- **Corporate Strategy & Commercialization:** Track record in corporate management, strategic innovation, global sales and marketing, and public listing/IPO.
- **Industry Leadership:** Led the establishment of the first and largest producer of palm tocotrienol and carotene complex in the world. A highly respected technocrat, widely recognized for pioneering the development and commercialization of palm phytonutrients.

Speakers' Profiles



Prof Emer Dr Pavinee Chinachoti

President-elect IUFoST

Pavinee is Chair of the Food Innovation and Regulation Network (FIRN), where she successfully led a policy proposal that has now become a National Reform Task Force on Food Safety and Function Claims (FFC). She also developed an online course on "Health Claim Substantiation and Food Innovation." In the USA, she served on the Emergency Relief Food Products Committee for USAID and the National Academy of Sciences, and on review panels for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) and the US FDA.

Pavinee spent 17 years at the Department of Food Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she rose to the rank of Full Professor. She then spent seven years at Hill's Pet Nutrition (Colgate-Palmolive) as a Product Science Fellow and Founding Head of Product Science. She subsequently served as Professor and Dean of Agro-Industry and Director of the Nutraceuticals and Functional Food R&D Center at Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. She is now President of the Food and Health Security Foundation, under which FIRN operates. She currently serves on the IUFoST Board of Directors, is an IAFoST Fellow, and has been appointed IUFoST President-elect.

Speakers' Profiles



Dr Tee E Siong

Immediate Past President NSM,
Adjunct Professor, IMU University

Tee E Siong, PhD is Immediate-Past President of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia (NSM). and Adjunct Professor of the IMU University, Malaysia. He is also Chair of the Southeast Asia Public Health Nutrition (SEA-PHN) Network and President-Elect of the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS). He represents NSM in several Technical Working Groups in the Ministry

of Health Malaysia, including committees related to Malaysian Food Regulations and Codex Alimentarius. Upon his retirement from Institute for Medical Research, MOH, in 2002, he set up a consultancy, TES Nutrihealth Strategic Consultancy. Dr Tee is also a Scientific Director of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) (Southeast Asia Region).

Speakers' Profiles



Ms Kawsalyavathi Kuppan

Head, Product Innovation & Development (Acting),
SD Guthrie Technology Centre Sdn Bhd

She holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) from Universiti Malaysia Sabah and an MBA from the University of Wales. With over 26 years of experience in the food manufacturing and oils & fats industry, Kawsalya has extensive expertise in frying, bakery, confectionery, culinary, and specialty fats applications. Her strong technical knowledge and customer-focused approach have enabled the successful development and commercialization of numerous products tailored to diverse market requirements.

Throughout her career, she has worked closely with leading food manufacturers and food service operators, helping them enhance product quality, performance, and operational efficiency. Her expertise in frying applications, in particular, has established long-standing partnerships with key customers across multiple regions.

In her current role, Kawsalya leads multidisciplinary teams supporting product innovation, technical services, and commercialization initiatives across Asia. She also collaborates closely with global customers and business teams, contributing to the development of innovative oils and fats solutions that address evolving consumer and industry needs.

Speakers' Profiles



Dr Yap Wei Ney

Head of Biological Research,
Davos Life Science Pte Ltd

Dr. Wei Ney Yap is Head of Biological Research at Davos Life Science Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of KLK Oleo. She holds a PhD in Pharmacology from the National University of Singapore. With over two decades of research experience, Dr. Yap specialises in the health benefits and mechanisms of action of tocotrienols (a natural form of vitamin E) derived from palm oil. Her work has produced more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, developed through collaborations with academic institutions, research organisations, and

government agencies internationally. She leads a research team responsible for building the scientific evidence base for the ingredient, from preclinical work including cell line development for proof-of-concept studies through to the design and execution of multiple clinical trials evaluating efficacy in humans. Beyond the laboratory, she drives translational research and supports both technical and commercial teams, connecting scientific discovery to practical application.

Speakers' Profiles



Prof Dr Tan Chin Ping

Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Chin Ping Tan is currently leading one of the major research programs at UPM, Fats and Oils Technology. His areas of research specialisation are lipid chemistry and technology, edible oil quality and safety, palm oil, food nanotechnology, food emulsions, microencapsulation and the extraction of bioactive compounds from various agricultural by-products. To date, he has published one joint-edited book, ten book chapters and over 600 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, has filed more than 20 patents and has presented more than 400 papers at various national and international conferences. Furthermore, Prof. Tan's research impact can be observed from the citation data provided by Scopus.com. His published works have been cited more than 23,000 times, and his h-index is 76 as of 1 September 2026 (from www.scopus.com).

Prof. Tan is an accomplished and internationally recognized scholar in the area of lipid science and technology such as mitigation of processing contaminants in palm oil via modification of refining process, in-depth study on quality and safety of various fats and oils products, development of various nanodispersion systems for the enhancement of bioavailability of functional lipids and various green

technologies for the extraction of valuable lipid compounds from plant materials. Peers highly regard and respect his dedication on the improvement of the quality and safety of palm oil. He plays advisory roles to a range of food companies and the Food Quality and Safety Division of the Ministry of Health.

Prof. Tan is currently the Editor-in-Chief of International Food Research Journal and member of the editorial boards for a number of renowned journals. He has received more than 40 national/international research awards throughout his research career. He was the recipient of the 2010 ProSPER.Net Scopus Young Scientist Award and recognised as one of the Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM) by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) in 2013. He is also recognised as an ASM Fellow in 2019. He has been listed in Stanford/Elsevier's Single Year and Career-long Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists for six consecutive years (2019-2024). He is one of the top three scientists from ASEAN listed in the Top 1% authors for the InCites Essential Science Indicators (ESI) under the field of Agricultural Sciences, a database compiled periodically by Clarivate Analytics. Since 2011, he has been appointed as a Distinguished/Visiting Professor at various universities in Asia.

Moderator's Profile



Ms Micole Goh

Principal & ESG Lead, Ipsos Strategy3

Micole is a Principal at Ipsos Strategy3 and leads the ESG Practice for Ipsos Malaysia. With over 20 years of experience in research, strategy, and consulting, she has advised Governments, multinational corporations, and public sector organisations across local, regional, and global markets. Her expertise spans sustainability strategy, ESG advisory, go-to-market strategy and policy research, helping organisations navigate complex challenges while delivering meaningful business and societal impact.

A GRI-certified sustainability professional, Micole has led a diverse portfolio of ESG engagements addressing sustainability priorities at both the corporate and national levels. Her work includes developing sustainable feedstock supply market strategies across Asia, assessing the readiness of FMCG companies to adopt plastic circularity models, and supporting biodiversity conservation initiatives,

including mapping tiger conservation efforts in Malaysia. She has also led studies on social and governance issues, evaluating the effectiveness of Malaysia's legislative framework in promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, assessing the ESG awareness and maturity of Malaysian SMEs, and most recently, examining the role of supply chain financing in enabling SME decarbonisation.

In addition to her ESG expertise, Micole has extensive experience in strategic market research and advisory, helping organisations translate data and insights into actionable strategies. Beyond her client engagements, Micole advocates for embedding sustainability into organisational culture and spearheaded the establishment of Ipsos Malaysia's Sustainability Committee.

Micole holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Universiti Malaya.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a young plant. The plant has a single, long, green leaf that is slightly damaged at the tip. The stem is thin and light brown, with a small, pale, bulbous root system visible at the base. Three red, elongated, and slightly curved fruits are resting in the palm of the hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange-brown color. The text 'ORGANISER'S PROFILE' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image, with a small orange square to its left.

ORGANISER'S PROFILE

Organiser's Profile



Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)

At MPOC, we don't just promote a commodity. We build markets, open new doors, and shape global perceptions. We connect Malaysia's producers to global markets, expanding and diversifying market access while driving growth and market share.

Our vision is clear: for Malaysia to be recognised as the global leader in certified sustainable palm oil. We show that responsible agriculture can be both profitable and principled, uniting progress with sustainability.

Because every new market we reach brings Malaysia closer to a more resilient, respected, and sustainable future. When palm oil rises, Malaysia rises with it.

Learn more



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MALAYSIAN PALM OIL:



NOURISHING THE WORLD, SUSTAINING A HEALTHY FUTURE

It begins with a single sapling, planted with purpose. From the fields of Malaysia to kitchens across the globe, palm oil nourishes billions every day.

With MSPO certification, we make sure it is grown responsibly, protecting forests, communities, and the future.

Tomorrow's food security starts here – in Malaysia.



Learn more:

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