Prof. Dr. Apichart Vanavichit

Rice Science Center, Kasetsart University, Thailand

Research Area: Plant Genomic Breeding

Prof. Dr Apichart Vanavichit, a professor in plant breeding, the director of DNA Technology Laboratory, and the Senior Adviser at Rice Science Center, is affiliated with Kasetsart University. His expertise is precision breeding by integrating biodiversity, gene discovery and genomics. The best-known products are discovering economically important genes and innovative rice varieties. Professor Apichart has registered 54 speciality rice varieties, mainly pigmented rice, suitable for developing novel food products and resiliency to global warming. Rainbow Rice is the latest innovation designed for developing specialized therapeutic products and enabling agro-tourism. Professor Apichart has published at least 50 publications in international journals.

Prof. Apichart Vanavichit was honoured as the National Distinguished Researcher in Agriculture and Biological Science in 2006; Honorable Inventor Award in Agriculture and Agricultural Industry from National Research Council Thailand (NRCT) in 2007; Distinguished Person in Commercially Agricultural Research from Agricultural Research and Development Agency (ARDA) in 2008; Outstanding Biotechnologist from the Foundation for Promotion of Science and Technology under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty the King in 2010; Distinguished Person of Thailand for Science and Technology from the National Distinctive Committee in 2012; Ayinomoto Lecture Award from Biotechnology Society of Thailand in 2013; Distinctive Research Philosophy from Kasetsart University in 2016; Platinum Research Award for Impact from Kasetsart University in 2016; and Distinguished Research and Innovation Award at the 60th Anniversary of National Research Council Thailand in 2019.

The research outcomes from Prof. Apichart Vanavichit have demonstrated that natural pigments identified on Rainbow rice leaf and Riceberry grain may lead to a new paradigm shift in food and nutritional security at the global scale.