

Prof. Dr. Penjit Srinophakun

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Professor Dr. Penjit Srinophakun graduated in Chemical Engineering from the University of Queensland, Australia, in 1996. Then she returned to work at the Chemical Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Kasetsart University, Thailand. In 2005, 2010, and 2011, she was appointed as the KU-biodiesel Project director and the Center of Excellence for *Jatropha* director, and the Vice President of the Asian Federation of Biotechnology (AFOB). During 2011-2016 and 2020-2022, she was elected President of the Thai Society for Biotechnology (TSB). Since 2017, she has been appointed by AFOB to be the Deputy Secretary-General of Public Relations and Policy and the AFOB Bioenergy and Biorefinery Division Chair in 2020.

Research activity is divided into five groups: bioenergy and biorefinery, biomass valorization, biodiesel, *Jatropha curcas*, and solid-state fermentation (SSF). The research on the SSF of soybean started in 1996. As a result, a packed bed bioreactor has been designed and is now used in a soybean factory in Thailand. Later in 2005, integrated research on *Jatropha curcas* has set up, and 5 cultivars were developed as high-yield *Jatropha curcas*. At the same time, the biodiesel research project has started and covers process improvement, zero-waste process, energy efficiency enhancement, scheduling, biodiesel quality improvement, and value-added glycerol. In addition, her research has extended to biochemicals and biomaterials from vegetable oils and palm wastes, techno-economic feasibility, and life cycle assessment.