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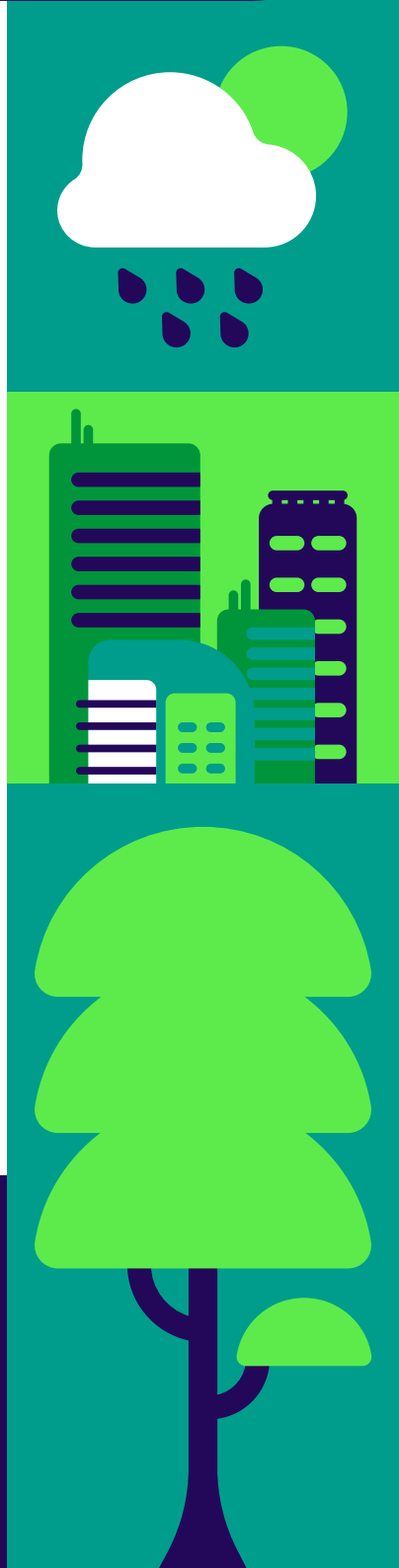
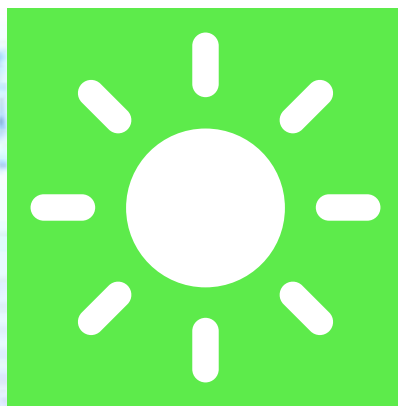
**The Climate  
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# Green careers guide

**Dr Sithichoke**  
Thailand



# Dr Sithichoke Thailand



## What did you study?

Biological Sciences with a focus on Plant Molecular Biology.

## What inspired you to study your subject at university and to work in the green industries?

I am very happy that I work in the green industries/academia because I can contribute knowledge and scientific advancement to the society. Hopefully, we will leave a better environment to our future generations.

## Why does climate change matter?

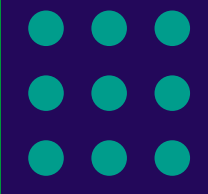
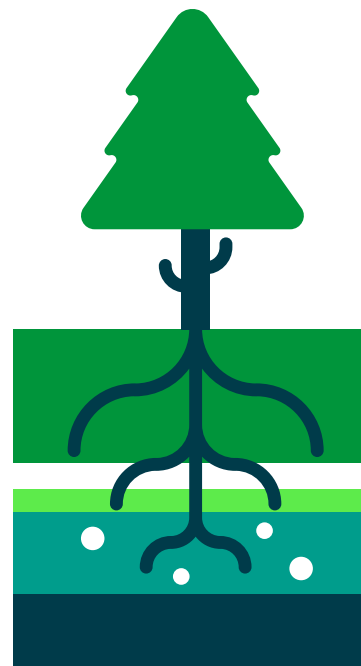
A slight change of temperature can cause sterility in plants because the male reproductive development is extremely sensitive to temperature. That can lead to reduction in crop yield which means we have less food. There are less fertile land and more problems with saline soil, contaminated water and polluted air. There are increasing records of more floods, droughts, so all life must adapt to changing environments.

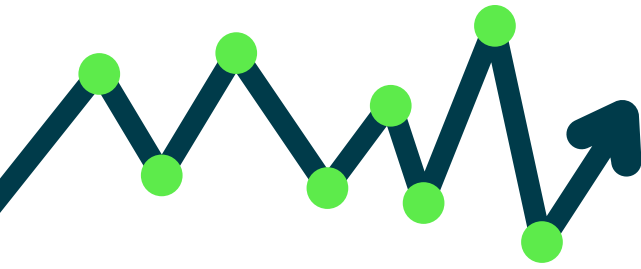
## How did your studies help you get into the career you're in today?

## What do you do now – what does your role involve? What exciting projects have you been involved in?

I received a Thai Government Scholarship to study in the UK. I obtained a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford and pursued a Ph.D. project at the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge. This provided me with a solid background of knowledge, examples of role

models, significant influence on my thinking skills and connections with friends which is expanding through my career. Currently, I'm working as a senior researcher and the Director of National Omics Center at National Science and Technology Development Agency, Thailand. My research projects include plant genetic improvement, studies of plant responses to biotic/abiotic stresses, and identification of genes responsible for disease resistance, drought tolerance and crop yields. I also have projects on genome sequencing and genetic diversity of tropical vegetables, crops and forest trees. An example of the ongoing project is the study of genetic diversity of plant species in mangrove forests, which are very important habitats for both freshwater and marine life. Mangrove species have evolved to be able to adapt in extremely fluctuating environments such as changes in water level and salinity. Mangrove genetic mechanisms underlying these responses may offer some insight into genetic improvement of crop species.



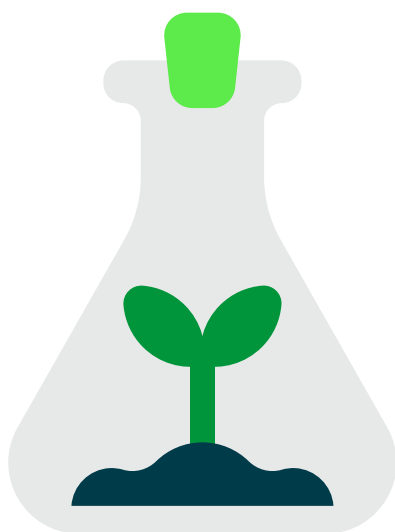


## What other experiences and support have you had along the way?

Coordinating a research network is an important skill that I have developed along the career. Regarding a research topic in conservation, I have collaborated with Department of National Park, Wild Life and Plant Conservation, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, National Biobank of Thailand and several universities. National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) has very clear policies in promoting R&D to create both economic and environmental impacts to the community. Our research group has received financial supports (especially for molecular ecology studies), scientific equipment and human resources mainly from NSTDA.

## Do you have any tips for people looking to pursue a career in your sector?

If you aim to make the world a better place for future generations, and you are contributing something good to the society.

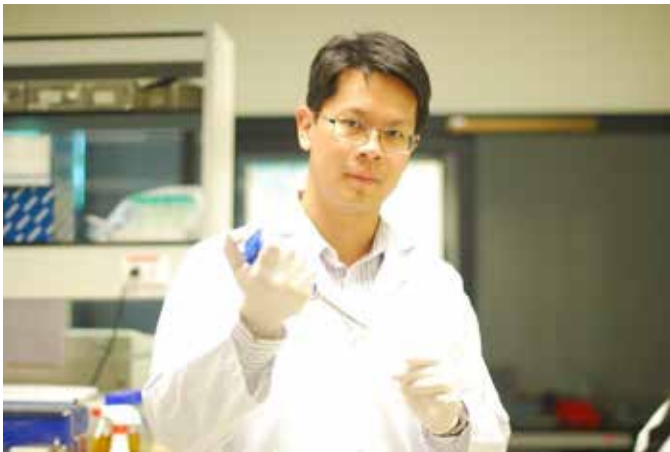
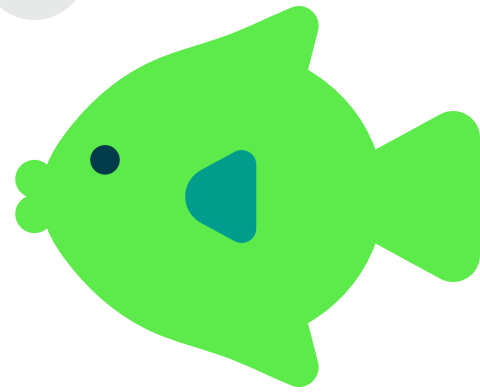
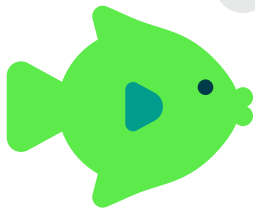


The Young Scientist Award 2012 from the Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology under the Patronage of His Majesty the King.



Ajinomoto Lecture Award 2020 for Outstanding Biotechnology Researcher from Ajinomoto Foundation and the Thai Society for Biotechnology.





National Science and Technology Development Agency.

Mangrove Sample Collection, Chantaburi Province, Thailand.

