MPOB is the premier government agency entrusted to serve the country’s oil palm industry. Its main role is to promote and develop national objectives, policies and priorities for the wellbeing of the Malaysian oil palm industry.

It was incorporated by an Act of Parliament (Act 582) and established on 1 May 2000, taking over, through a merger, the functions of the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM) and the Palm Oil Registration and Licensing Authority (PORLA). Each of these respective organisations has been involved in the oil palm industry for more than 20 years and it is to render more effective services as well as to give greater national and international focus to the industry that MPOB was instituted.

Functions

- Implement policies and development programmes to ensure viability of the oil palm industry of Malaysia.
- Conduct research and development related to the oil palm industry.
- License, regulate and coordinate all activities related to the oil palm industry.
- Develop, promote, commercialise research findings, provide technical advisory services to the oil palm industry.
- Collaborate and coordinate with national and international organisations to strengthen the oil palm industry of Malaysia.
- Organise training and human resources development programmes in accordance to the needs of the oil palm industry.
- Resource and information centre of the oil palm industry in disseminating research findings and information on oils and fats.
MPOB Board

Members of the Board which comprises a Chairman, representatives from the government and the industry, and the Director-General of MPOB are appointed by the Minister of Primary Industries. The Board plays a leadership role in giving direction to the organisation.

Several committees serve the Board in the following areas:

- Research Programme Advisory
- Finance & Development
- Tenders
- Establishment
- Registration & Licensing
- Audit

The Programme Advisory Committee

The Programme Advisory Committee comprising eminent scientists and experts from Malaysia and abroad annually examines and makes recommendations on research activities for the Board's consideration.