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Application of MAS into Oil Palm Crop Improvement

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Conventional oil palm breeding is a lengthy process as it requires 10-19 years for a generational improvement. Advancement in sequencing technologies and availability of oil palm genome sequence has intensified the identification of trait markers for crop improvement of the oil palm. Currently, markers for three traits have been identified in oil palm; fruit form, fruit colour and mantling. Application of these markers into marker-assisted selection in oil palm improvement programmes allows early selection process in the nursery and improved breeding efficiency.

Keywords: *Oil palm, marker-assisted selection.*

