



STATEMENT

by Professor Hristo Georgiev Bozukov PhD, Institute of Tobacco and Tobacco Products - village of Markovo, district of Plovdiv, appointed according to Order No. RD-16-902/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the area of Higher Education: 6. *Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine*; professional field: 6.2. *Plant Protection*; the scientific specialty “*Plant Protection /Phytopathology/*”, announced in State Gazette No. 62 of 21.07.2023 with candidate - NESHKA GEORGIEVA PIPERKOVA PhD - Senior Assistant Professor at Agricultural University - Plovdiv

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Senior Assistant Professor Neshka Georgieva Piperkova PhD is the only candidate in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced for the needs of Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the field of higher education: 6. *Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine*; professional field: 6.2. *Plant Protection*; scientific specialty *Plant Protection /Phytopathology/*.

Senior Assistant Professor Neshka Georgieva Piperkova PhD was born on 22.08.1961 in Panagyurishte. In 1987 she graduated as an engineer-agronomist (Master's Degree) in the specialty “Plant Protection” at the Higher Agricultural Institute “V. Kolarov” (now Agricultural University) Plovdiv.

In the period 1988 - 1999 Ms Neshka Piperkova was an Assistant Professor, and since 1999 she has been a Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Phytopathology of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

In 2013 the candidate acquired the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" with a defended dissertation entitled: “A study of peach curl (*Taphrina deformans* Berk./Tul.)”

2. General description of scientific production.

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Dr. Neshka Piperkova participated with a total output of 27 works, grouped as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 27, of which:*
 - *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 3, not subject to review;*
 - *Publications with impact factor - 6; (total IF=15,475)*
 - *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 13;*
 - *Publications in conference proceedings - 2;*
 - *Book published on the basis of defended dissertation for awarding of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 1*
 - *Study guides - 2*

24 works are subject to analysis in preparing the statement.

The personal participation of Dr. Neshka Piperkova in the above 24 works is illustrated by the fact that she is the first author in 13 /54%/ of them (of which 4 are single author scientific works /17%/), in 6 /25%/ she is the second author, and in the remaining 5 /21%/ - the third and subsequent author.

Dr. Neshka Piperkova has participated with 4 poster presentations in scientific forums abroad and with 5 presentations in Bulgaria.

3. Teaching activities.

Educational employment

Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Neshka Piperkova has a long experience as a lecturer at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv - over 35 years (35 years and 06 months). Dr. Neshka Piperkova gives lectures and seminars on general and special phytopathology to students of all specialties studying this discipline. She is a supervisor of master's programs.

Her teaching activity is complemented with the guidance of successfully defended graduates - 32 with bachelor's and master's degrees.

Published study materials

Senior Assistant Professor N. Piperkova PhD is co-author of two textbooks - "Manual for Exercises in Special Phytopathology" and "Manual for Exercises in

Phytopathology", published by the academic publishing house of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

Developed study programs

The candidate does not submit developed study programs.

4. Scientific research activities.

Areas of research and publication

Dr. Neshka Piperkova is an author and co-author of publications that reflect her research in three main areas:

- Diagnosis and determination of etiology of poorly studied or new for our country diseases.
- Determination of pathological changes in the plant-pathogen system
- Determining the potential of some essential oils and antagonists for inclusion as biopesticides in integrated control of fungal pathogens.

As a result of this research, the candidate presents 4 original scientific applied and 3 confirmatory scientific applied contributions.

Citation and referencing of scientific output

The scientific works of Senior Assistant Professor Neshka Piperkova PhD have been cited 42 times. In foreign and Bulgarian scientific publications with impact factor - 35 times. In papers with refereeing and scientific review without impact factor - 5 times. In dissertations - 2 times.

Participation in research projects

Dr. Neshka Piperkova is a leader or participant in 5 research projects - one funded by AU - Plovdiv, of which she is the leader - "Specificity of the essential oil of some juniper species found in Bulgaria and evaluation of its fungicidal activity", one funded by Agricultural Academy - Sofia (The Institute of Horticulture - Plovdiv), in which she is a participant, two national in which she is a participant (Scientific Research Fund) and one international in which she is a participant - Project 2021-1-CZ01-220-VET-000025827 Project Title: Integrated plant protection as an answer for climate change. Project Acronym: IMPACT, implementation period - 2022-2023.

It is evident from the candidate's individual reference for fulfilling the minimum national requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic

of Bulgaria for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" that Dr Neshka Piperkova meets these requirements. The total score of all indicators is 594.8.

5. Remarks and recommendations

I have no comments on the correctness of the materials submitted and the candidate's work.

6. Conclusion

On the basis of the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Senior Assistant Professor Neshka Piperkova PhD meets the requirements of the Law On the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Rules for Application of the Law On the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University in Plovdiv for its application.

Her active scientific and teaching activities, her participation in forums in Bulgaria and abroad, prove Dr. Neshka Piperkova as an accomplished scientist and lecturer.

All this gives me a reason to evaluate **POSITIVELY** her overall activity.

I propose that the Honorable Scientific Jury also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv elect **Senior Assistant Professor Neshka Georgieva Piperkova PhD** as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty Plant Protection /Phytopathology/.

Date: 20.11.2023

Plovdiv

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PREPARED BY: Prof. Hristo Bozukov PhD

