

OPINION



referring the competition for the academic position "**associate professor**" in the scientific specialty "Agrochemistry", announced in SC issue 62 of 21.07.2023 with candidate Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova, from Agricultural University - Plovdiv
from Antoniya Koleva Stoyanova, PhD, appointed by Order № RDPD-16-903/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for the a scientific jury member

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Ch. assistant Nedyalka Yordanova was born in 1979. She graduated from the Higher Agricultural Institute (now the Agrarian University), bachelor's degree in "Agronomy-field farming", professional qualification: "Agronomist" in 2002. In 2003, she obtained a Master's degree in "Plant Biotechnologies", Agrarian University - Plovdiv. In 2012, he obtained an educational and scientific degree "doctor" based on a protected dissertation work, on the topic: "Comparative study of new varieties of wheat, grown independently and in a strip crop with sunflower".

From 2007 to 2010, he worked as an assistant in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science, Faculty of Agronomy at AU - Plovdiv. The following year, she was appointed as a senior assistant in the same department. From 07.03.2011 until now, he has been working as head. assistant in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science, Faculty of Agronomy at AU - Plovdiv. Conducts lectures, laboratory and practical exercises for bachelor and master's degree students in the following disciplines: Agrochemistry, Basics of Agrochemistry, Soil Fertility and Fertilization, Plant Nutrition and Fertilization, Mineral and Organic Fertilizers, Biological Agriculture. He has acquired the additional professional qualification "Consultant on agrarian-legal issues".

2. General description of the scientific production

The applicant submits a complete set of documents required according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv. All the required documents are precisely prepared and there are corresponding appendices with evidentiary material for each one.

In the competition for "associate professor" Ch. Assistant Professor Nedyalka Yordanova participated with a total production of 27 papers, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 27 issues, of which:

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 8 issues, which are not subject to examination;

- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals, in world-renowned databases with scientific information - Web of Science and Scopus – 17 issues;

- Scientific publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes - 9 issues;

- Book based on a defended dissertation work - 1 issue

The personal participation of Ch. assistant Nedyalka Yordanova in the mentioned 27 papers is illustrated by the fact that 6 nos. are independent, in 5 pcs. is first, in 8 pcs. is the second, and in the others he is the third and next author. The publications are mainly in English.

27 items are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

According to indicator A – protected dissertation for the ONS "Doctor", which carries 50 points (100 %).

According to indicator B, 10 scientific publications are presented in referenced and indexed in world famous databases with scientific information. With the minimum required number of 100 points, the candidate has completed 132 points.

According to indicator G, with the minimum required 200 points, the candidate has completed 209.98 points.

According to indicator D, with a minimum requirement of 50 points, the candidate has submitted evidence for 60 points.

3. Teaching activity

From the submitted documentation, it is established that as of October 2023, the candidate has 16 years and 7 months of teaching experience at the Faculty of Agronomy at AU - Plovdiv. Participates in the training of students in the disciplines "Agrochemistry", "Fundamentals of Agrochemistry", "Soil Fertility and Fertilization", "Plant Nutrition and Fertilization", "Mineral and Organic Fertilizers" and "Biological Agriculture". The candidate conducts lectures, laboratory and practical exercises of bachelors and masters in these disciplines.

Under the supervision of Dr. Yordanova, 7 theses in the specialty "Agronomy" were developed and successfully defended. All this proves the responsible and professional attitude to teaching work and characterizes the candidate as an excellent teacher.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

A review of the candidate's scientific output shows that the emphasis in the research work is entirely in the field of agrochemistry. Problems related to plant fertilization in staple crops such as wheat, barley, maize, lavender, coriander and potatoes have been studied. Through the scientific production, the results that reflect the influence of the diet on the quantity and quality of the productivity of each of the studied crops have been popularized. The parameters of basic agrochemical parameters of soil fertility and their effect on perennial crops and vineyards were analyzed.

The analysis of the materials shows that the applicant has registered participation in 12 international scientific and two national forums.

Research contributions

The formulated 5 scientific and 9 scientific-applied contributions correspond to the work performed and the results obtained and I accept them without remark.

Citing and peer-reviewing of the scientific research

Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanova presented two scientific publications with four citations. The citations are in refereed and indexed scientific publications, in world-famous databases with scientific information. The citations show the interest in the subject and the scientific results of the candidate.

Participation in research projects

The candidate participates, as a member of the teams, in 17 national scientific and/or educational projects. The participation of the candidate shows that he is a sought-after specialist also because of his good communication skills and good teamwork.

5. Remarks and recommendations

I have no significant objections to the provided evidence.

My recommendations are aimed at the preparation and writing of teaching aids - a textbook and/or exercise guide in agrochemistry, plant nutrition and fertilization or another discipline. Issues with soil fertility and plant fertilization are particularly relevant not only for students, but also for farmers.

Based on the provided scientific output and achievements, I believe that the candidate should focus on the publication of independent scientific works and/or ones in which he is the first author.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that Ch. Associate Professor Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova, PhD, meets the requirements of the ŽRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Rules of the Agrarian University for its application. I consider this to be an accomplished scholar and established teacher.

All this gives me the reason to **POSITIVELY** evaluate her overall activity. I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agrarian University - Plovdiv to elect chef assistant professor **Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova, PhD** for the academic position "**Associate professor**" in the scientific specialty "**Agrochemistry**".

Date: 24.10.2023
Stara Zagora

The statement was drawn by: 
(Professor Antoniya Stoyanova, PhD)