



STANDPOINT

About academic position "Associate Professor" in higher education: 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional field 6.1 Crop Production, scientific specialty "Agrochemistry", announced in State Gazette No.62 of 23.07.2023.

Candidate: Ch.Assistant, D-r **Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova**

By Prof. Neli Kirilova Valkova PhD – Field Crops Institute, Chirpan, field of higher education - 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine; professional direction 6.1 Crop Production; scientific specialty "Selection and Seed Production of Cultivated Plants", designated as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. RD-16-903/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Chief assistant, Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova PhD graduated from higher education, "Bachelor" degree at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv, in 2002, with the qualification "Agronomist Field Grower", and the following year she received a second Master's degree in the specialty "Plant Biotechnologies". From 04.06.2007 to 01.27.2010 she was appointed assistant, from 28.01.2010 to 07.03.2011 - senior assistant, and from 08.03.2011 until now she is the chief assistant in the Department of "Agrochemistry and Soil Science" of the Agronomy Faculty of AU, Plovdiv. In 2012, she successfully defended her dissertation and obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". Ch. assistant Nedyalka Yordanova PhD has 16 years and 5 months of experience as a teacher at the time of submitting the documents for participation in this competition. She is fluent in French and English. She has good organizational skills and excellent computer literacy.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Chief assistant Nedyalka Yordanova PhD participates in the nomenclature specialty with total production of 35 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 8 issues, which are not subject to consideration;*
- *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 10 issues, of which publications with impact factor – 3 issues;*
- *Published book based on defended doctoral thesis for awarding educational and scientific degree „Doctor“ - 1 issue;*
- *Publications in referenced scientific and indexed in world – renowned databases scientific journals – 7 issues;*
- *Publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes – 9 issues;*

Of the specified 27 works with which the candidate participates in the current competition, 19 were published in Latin and 8 in Cyrillic.

Analysis of the personal contribution of Chief assistant Yordanova in the presented materials shows that she is the only author in 6 nos. (22.2%) scientific publications, in 5 (18.5%) of them she is the lead author, in 8 (29.6%) – she is second, and in the remaining 9 nos. (29.7%) – she is the third and subsequent author. Her leading role in a large part of the

materials is a testimony to her active participation in the conducted research, and the co-authored publications are proof of her skills to work in a team.

To prepare the opinion, 27 items are subject to analysis.

3. Teaching activity.

Ch. assistant Nedyalka Yordanova PhD gives lectures, laboratory and practical exercises to students from bachelor's and master's courses in the disciplines Agrochemistry, Fundamentals of Agrochemistry, Soil Fertility and Fertilization, Nutrition and Fertilization of Plants, Mineral and Organic Fertilizers, Biological Agriculture.

Academic employment of the candidate.

During the period 2018 - 2023, the candidate had direct classroom employment and outside classroom employment of 2500 hours.

The teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of five successfully defended graduates and of two students who are currently preparing their diploma theses.

Curriculums developed.

The candidate did not present developed study programs.

4. Scientific research activity.

Areas of publication.

The presented scientific works clearly show the agrochemical focus of the candidate's research activity. Her work is focused in the following areas: studies on the influence of increasing levels of fertilization with nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers, applied in different phases of plant development, on the yield and quality characteristics of agricultural crops (common wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, coriander); research on the effect of the application of foliar fertilizers on the structural elements of yield, the yield of fresh inflorescences and of lavender oil; studies related to changes in the reuse of wheat and barley stem reserves, when the donor-acceptor ratio changes, as a result of spike reduction; research and assessment of terrains for creation of massifs of vineyards, perennials, berries and medicinal plants; study of specific variety fertilization requirements in barley and common wheat; comparative testing of new varieties of wheat, etc.

General assessment of the presented materials is that, in terms of content, they objectively reflect the conducted research and correspond to the professional direction of the announced competition. They are written in a good scientific style, the interpretation of data is thorough and competent, and the conclusions drawn are scientifically substantiated. The candidate has summarized results of the scientific research work in 8 scientific theoretical and 13 scientific applied contributions. I accept the attached author reference for contributions that are innovative and enrich theory and practice.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The scientific works of Chief assistant Nedyalka Yordanova has been cited in 4 scientific articles published in proceedings of conferences and symposia abroad. The candidate has participated in two national and 12 international scientific forums, which contributes to popularizing the results of her scientific research activity.

Participation in scientific projects.

The candidate is a participant in 5 projects, two of which have external funding for the Agrarian University - from the Ministry of Education and the "Scientific Research" Fund, and

3 - with internal funding. Ch. assistant Yordanova is a participant in the collectives of 12 implementation projects.

The individual report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for "Associate Professor" shows that the candidate fully meets the requirements. It forms a total number of points 451.98 for the required 400 points.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I have no remarks on the presented materials. My recommendation is that the candidate to transfer her scientific experience and knowledge in the field of Agrochemistry not only to graduates, but also to doctoral students.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and applied activities of the candidate I believe that Chief assistant Nedyalka Yordanova PhD fully meets requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application.

She is an established researcher in the field of Agrochemistry, who presents herself in the competition with scientific production of sufficient volume and quality. Her active teaching activity and guidance of graduates are proof of her professionalism and ability to combine scientific and teaching work.

All this gives me 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 Agriculture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Chief assistant *Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova*, PhD, as an "*Associate Professor*" in the scientific specialty "*Agrochemistry*".

Date 23.10.2023
Plovdiv

PREPARED THE STANDPOINT

/Prof. Neli Kirilova Valkova PhD/