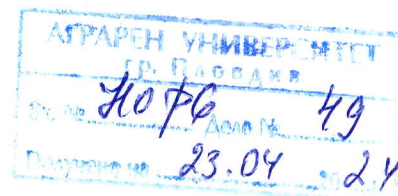


OPINION



Regarding competition for acquiring the academic degree "Associate Professor" in *Mechanization and Electrification of Crop production*, announced in State Gazette 7/ dated 23.01.2024

Applicant: Chief Assistant Eng. IVAN ANGELOV MITKOV, PhD

Opinion by: Prof. Eng. Gencho Stoykov Popov, PhD, appointed for a member of the Scientific Jury according to Order No. ПД-14-16/20.03.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

1. Short introduction of the applicant.

The applicant Chief Assistant Ivan Mitkov, PhD, was born on 20.08.1970 in the town of Parvomay. He graduated his higher education at the Technical University – the town of Gabrovo as a mechanical engineer majoring in Metal Technology and Metalworking Technology in 1995. From 2013 to 2015, he was a PhD student at the Agricultural University in the field of Mechanization and Electrification of Crop Production, professional direction General Engineering. He defended his dissertation in 2017 with topic "Research of biomass greenhouse heating technology". In 2015, he joined the Department of Agricultural Mechanization as an Assistant, and on October 1, 2018, after winning a competition, he took the position of "Chief Assistant" at the same department until present. It is clear that the scientific development of Chief Asst. Prof. Mitkov is in the direction of the competition for acquiring the academic degree "Associate Professor" - mechanization of agriculture.

2. General description of scientific works.

The applicant Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Mitkov, PhD, participates in the competition with a total of 31 works, grouped in the following way:

- ❖ *Scientific publications on nomenclature specialty – 30, of which:*
 - *Publications related to the dissertation – 4 which are not subject of review;*
 - *Publications with impact factor – 3;*
 - *Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals – 11;*
 - *Publication in conference compendiums- 12.*

The personal participation of Dr. Iv. Mitkov in the mentioned 27 works is illustrated by the fact that 7 works are independent. He is the first author in 7 of them, second author in 4 of them, and he is the third and subsequent author in the other 16.

- ❖ *One book based on the dissertation.*
- ❖ **26 publications** are subject to analysis to prepare the statement

3. Lecture work.

The applicant, Chief Asst. Prof. Mitkov is a university lecturer with sufficient work experience, which is an indicator of accumulated experience in teaching disciplines from the field of the competition.

From the attached reference, it can be seen that for the last 5 years his study load is significant, as only for the previous academic year it was 996 hours, and the classroom occupation (lectures and exercises) was nearly 800 hours. This is quite heavy workload which inevitably complicates the research work of Dr. Mitkov and it is good for the management of the faculty and the department to relieve Chief Assistant Mitkov from this additional activity.

The teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of 18 successfully defended graduates, half of them are foreign students who developed diploma theses in the field of agriculture. This is an indisputable fact about the applicant's abilities to guide student development on topics in the field of the "Associate professor" competition, which characterizes him as a good lecturer, preferred by students as a supervisor of their diploma theses.

In the presented materials, there is no information about textbooks published by the applicant and no participation in the development of study documentation (plans and programs). It is good to prepare and issue appropriate teaching guides to assist students in learning the taught material.

4. Research activity.

Dr. Mitkov's research activity is grouped as follows:

- ☐ research on tillage devices, agricultural machines and agro-robots;

- ❑ research on mechanized technologies and those related to RES.
- Scientific works have been published as follows:
- ❑ 12 reports in world and European congresses and symposia;
 - ❑ 5 reports in scientific forums in Bulgaria;
 - ❑ the rest of the publications are articles in journals, such as Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science, Scientific Papers, Science Time, etc

Regarding meeting the requirements of NACID for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor", the analysis of the presented materials shows:

- **Group A – 50 p.** this indicator is covered by the applicant's dissertation work.
- **Group B – 100 p. (Total number of points 125,57)** the points for this indicator are covered by 10 publications in referenced and indexed databases with scientific information (Scopus and WoS), which covers the requirement for habilitation work.
- **Group Г – 200 p. (Total number of points 257.25)**

In this group, scientific works are presented in several subgroups:

Subgroup Г5. (30 points) Published book based on a dissertation.

Subgroup Г7. (49.93 points) *Scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.* 4 publications are presented to this subgroup.

Subgroup Г8. (177.32 points) *Scientific publications in non-referenced peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes.* This subgroup includes 12 articles and reports

- **Group Д – 50 p. (Total number of points 70)**

Subgroup Д12. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information. Citation information for 5 publications with the participation of Dr. Mitkov is presented.

The data indicated above show that Dr. Mitkov meets and even to a certain extent exceeds the requirements for the main groups of indicators related to the publication activity. For the four indicator groups with a minimum total of 400 points, the applicant covers 533.47 points. This is an implicit indicator of Dr. Mitkov's good publication activity and his recognition among specialists in the field of agricultural mechanization.

The applicant's research activity can also include his participation in two intra-university projects directly related to his scientific interests.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I have no objections of a principled nature to the presented materials. I would allow myself to recommend that the applicant prepares and issues teaching guides for the disciplines he leads, as I definitely consider this to be an indicator of a good teaching job.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the presented scientific works, their significance, their scientific and applied contributions as well as the fact that the scientometric data of the applicant, Chief Assistant Professor Ivan Mitkov, PhD, cover and to a certain extent exceed the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position, I **POSITIVELY** evaluate his overall activity. I allow myself to propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to award

Chief Assistant Dr. Eng. IVAN ANGELOV MITKOV

the academic degree "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty *Mechanization and Electrification of Crop Production*

15.04.2024
City of Ruse

PREPARED BY:

/Prof. Eng. Gencho Popov, PhD/