

OPINION

Concerning: competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine; Professional direction 6.1 Plant breeding; scientific specialty "Soil Science", announced by the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in State Gazette no. 7 of 23.01. 2024 with a candidate for participation in the competition Chief. Assistant Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, PhD

Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Paunka Mladenova Bojinova, PhD, University of Forestry, Higher Education Area 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine; Professional direction 6.1 Plant breeding: Scientific Specialty "Soil Science", determined according to Order No. RD-16-407/20.03.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

Only one candidate participated in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" announced for the needs of the Department of "Agrochemistry and Soil Science" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. The documents have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the RSARB and the regulations for the application of the law in AU - Plovdiv.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Chief Assistant Dr. Mladen Almaliev was born on March 18, 1976 in the city of Plovdiv. During the period 2004-2008, he was a student at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv with the acquired qualification of Bachelor of Agronomy, graduated with the qualification of Agronomist in Viticulture and Horticulture. In the period 2008-2010, he studied for a master's degree in "Tourism Management" and obtained a master's degree at the Faculty of Economics at AU-Plovdiv, and from 2011 to 2013 he was a doctoral student in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science at AU. From 15.09.2014, after obtaining the Doctorate degree in the scientific specialty "Agrochemistry", he was appointed with a labor contract as an assistant to the department, and since 2016 he has been a "Chief Assistant" (9 years and 4 months). As a teacher, the candidate in the discipline "Soil Science", Ch. As. Prof. Almaliev has worked in areas relevant to practice: "Evaluation of agricultural lands", "Technologies for the restoration of damaged soils and terrains", "Problem soils and chemical amelioration of acidic and saline soils". He has an excellent command of the English language.

2. General description of the scientific production

To prepare the opinion, 38 works are subject to analysis.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Ch. assistant professor Dr. Mladen Almaliev has attached 46 publications to the documents, distributed by groups as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty are divided into 6 groups:*

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 8 issues that are not subject to consideration;*
- *Publications in refereed indexed editions in world-renowned databases with scientific information – 10 issues (indicator B3). Two of the articles were published in journals with Quartile Q3 (B3-8 - SJR 0.25 and B3-9 - SJR 0.29). One article is in Q4 (B3-10, IF - 0.3). The required number of points for this group is 100, and the associate professor candidate has a total of 139.5 points for the evaluation of this group of publications. This result shows that the minimum required as a requirement for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the rules of AU is covered.*
- *One book was published based on the data from the dissertation work of the candidate for the award of the ESD (Educational and Scientific Degree) "Doctor" (indicator G6).*
- *Publications with an impact factor – 1 issue.*
- *Publications in refereed indexed editions in world-famous databases with scientific information - 8 issues, (indicator G 7), which gain 125 points.*
- *Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes are 19. 74.54 points were collected from it and are included in indicator G8).*

The candidate scores 242.54 points from all groups of publications out of the 200 points required to meet the requirements.

The personal participation of Ch. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, assistant professor, in the mentioned 38 publications is illustrated by the fact that 6 are independent, in 8 he is the first author, in 3 he is the second, and in the remaining 21 he is the third and next author.

The papers and reports have been published in journals and in Proceedings

Scientific papers **series A**. Agronomy-University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest Faculty of Agriculture – 9 issues, Agricultural Science and Technology - 3 issues, Scientific work - Agriculture University-Plovdiv – 3 issues, Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science - 1 issue , Agriculture & Forestry - 1 issue, Agronomy Research - 1 issue, International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry - 1 issue, Agriculture & Food - 3 issues,

15 works were published in in Proceedings, reported at conferences (7 national with international participation and 8 international).

In the 38 publications subject to review, the personal participation of Ch. Assistant Professor Mladen Almaliev has 6 independent publications, in 8 he is the first author, in 3 he is the second, and in 21 issues he is the third and subsequent author.

3. Teaching activity

The teaching experience of Chief. Associate Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, Ph.D., studied only at the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv. He has conducted exercises to full-time and part-time students from EQD (Educational and Qualification Degree) Bachelor and EQD Master.

For the period 2018-2023, the candidate for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Almaliev has conducted a total of 2889.45 hours.

Ch. Associate Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev was the supervisor of 9 graduate students, and currently he is the supervisor of another 6 graduate students. The teaching activity of the candidate is complemented by the guidance of successfully defended graduates.

4. Scientific research activity

Areas of publication.

Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, Ph.D., works and publishes the results of his research activities in the following areas:

Research related to Land evaluation, with the stocking of soils with nutrients, determination of soil acidity, determination of fertilizer norms, results in experiments with foliar fertilization, as well as norms for liming acidic soils.

A large part of the studies are too complex and concern the determination of the suitability of terrains in different regions of the country (Elena, Radomir, Aytos, Archar, Chirpan, Kavarna, etc.) for creating and growing vine plantations, fruit and berry crops. A large proportion of the studies are related to the acidity of the soil and its correction through the application of ameliorants. The export and content of Ca and Mg in grapes and their accumulation in the foliage were monitored. Detailed studies have led to results that play a major role in the taste characteristics of the same variety of vines grown under different soil-climatic conditions. In the end, the totality of all factors of growth and development determine the quality of the final product - the wine.

The planned field experiments and the planned agrotechnical activity, as well as the analyzes to follow up the results, were planned and carried out methodically correctly. An in-depth discussion at a high scientific level of the obtained results was conducted. In addition to the fundamental importance of the research carried out, reflected in the publications, they have a certain practical meaning and application. This is reflected in 15 original scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions, which are attached to the prepared reference, which I accept.

Citation of scientific production.

The presented citations are 6 (without self-citations), of which 4 are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of science), 2 in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

The required number of points is 50, and the submitted materials got 70 points. There are 30 citations in secondary literary sources.

Participation in scientific projects.

Participation in a certain number of projects is not required for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor", but Chief Assistant Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev presented 11 scientific projects - 7 of them are implementation projects, 1 - scientific and research at AU-Plovdiv, 2 at the Faculty of Agriculture at Thrace University - St. Zagora and 1 in an international project at the Scientific Research Fund.

5. Notes and recommendations

What is striking is that the contributions are written too much in detail. The details are in the articles and contributions can be formulated more briefly. Comprehensive studies on the conditions for growing vines and perennials are present, but there is no trace of studies on growing vegetables, especially since the Thracian Lowland region is one of the largest producers. Farmers would probably be interested in such research.


6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Ch. Assistant Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, meets the requirements and the Regulation of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The candidate participates in the competition with a sufficient volume of materials published in our and foreign specialized publications and meet the scientific metrical requirements for occupying the academic position. Scientific research is up-to-date, methodically sustained and conducted at a high level. The obtained results are well interpreted, presented in tabular and graphical form and well illustrated. In a word - work has been done in depth by using and applying modern scientific methods and achievements in the field of soil science, in which agrochemistry has a large share.

All this gives me reason to positively evaluate his 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 Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, PhD, as "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty "Soil Science"

Date: 24/04/2024
Sofia

PREPARED
STATEMENT: 
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paunka Bozhinova)