



OPINION

regarding a competition for an "associate professor" in the scientific specialty Soil Science, announced in SG no. 7 of 23.01.2024 with candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, Ph.D. by Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, appointed 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.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Dr. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, assistant professor, was born on March 18, 1976 in the city of Plovdiv. He finished secondary education in 1996 at "Vasil Levski" Secondary School, Plovdiv. In 2004, he graduated with a degree in "Farming" at the Agricultural College - Plovdiv, after which he attended the Agricultural University, where he successively completed all three degrees - a bachelor's degree in viticulture and horticulture, a master's degree in tourism management and a doctorate in agrochemistry, which is also scientific degree. In parallel with his studies, he acquired professional qualifications in Economics and foreign trade in agricultural products and Computer systems and technologies. His work experience in the specialty began in 2003 in England as an agronomist, where he worked until 2010. Since 2014, he has been an assistant, and since 2016, a chief assistant in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

2. General description of the scientific production.

Mladen Pavlov Almaliev participated in the competition for "docent" with a production grouped as follows:

- Publications (not less than 10) in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 10 issues (139.5 points);
- Published book based on a dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1 issue (40 points);
- Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 8 issues (125 points);
- Scientific publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 19 issues (77.5 points)

3. Teaching activity.

The candidate's teaching experience amounts to over 9 years, all in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science.

Academic employment of the candidate.

According to the presented certificate, issued by the Academic Department of the Agricultural University, in the last 5 years, Mladen Almaliev has performed a total of 2,889 hours, of which lectures, exercises and extracurricular activities.

The teaching activity is supplemented by the supervise of 7 successfully defended diplomants, all of them foreign graduates. Currently, the candidate has 5 current graduates.

4. Scientific research activity.

Areas of publication.

All of the applicant's scientific publications submitted for review are in the fields of soil science and agrochemistry. The scientific production of Mladen Almaliev is classified in the following areas:

- Studies related to determining the suitability of terrains for creating and growing perennial crops.
- Studies related to the study of soil acidity in wine vineyards.
- Studies related to monitoring the changes in indicators characterizing the acid-alkaline balance in the soil after the introduction of ameliorants.

The research done gives the possibility to form contributions in which the candidate describes the specific original scientific contributions with which he applied to the competition.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

A total of 6 citations are indicated in the reference for minimum scientometric indicators, four of which are in articles that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases and two in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. However, in a reference presenting all of the candidate's citations, it is evident that his overall recognition is much greater, as the citations presented are over 40.

Participation in scientific projects.

According to a certificate issued by the Center for scientific research, technology transfer and protection of intellectual property at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Mladen Almaliev participated in one internal research project, 7 implementation projects and one international project. From a certificate issued by Thrace University - St. Zagora It is clear from that the candidate was part of two competitively funded projects at the University's Faculty of Agriculture.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I don't have any

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that Dr. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, assistant professor, meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application.

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 assistant professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev, PhD, as "**associate professor**" in the scientific specialty **Soil Science**.

Date: 04/15/2024
City. Plovdiv

PREPARED
THE OPINION:

(Prof. Dr. H. Kirchev)