

OPINION



About: academic position "Associate Professor", Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty "Soil science", announced by the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the State Gazette issue 7 from 23.01.2024

Applicant for the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD

Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova, Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Crop production, Scientific Specialty "Crop production", determined a member of the scientific jury, according to Order № RD 16-407/20.03.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University, Plovdiv.

Brief presentation of the applicant

Mladen Pavlov Almaliev was born in 1976, in Plovdiv city. During the period 2004-2008, he was a student at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv, specialty Viticulture - horticulture, graduated with the qualification of Agronomist (Viticulture – horticulture). In 2010 he obtained a master's degree in "Tourism management", Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv. In 2014 the applicant was appointed as an assistant and since 2016 to present he is Chief Assistant at the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science. In 2014 he obtained the scientific-and-educational degree PhD in the scientific specialty "Agrochemistry". The applicant has experience as a university lecturer in the disciplines "Soil science", "Valuation of lands", "Technologies for the restoration of damaged soils and terrains", "Problem soils and Chemical melioration of acidic and saline soils". He has an excellent command of English language.

General description of the scientific production

Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD participates in the competition for an Associate Professor with a total research output of 46 publications, grouped as follows:
- *Scientific publications in the scientific specialty – 46 papers, of which:*

- * *Publications related to the PhD Thesis – 8 which are not subject to review;*
- * *Publications in refereed indexed publications in world renowned databases with scientific information – 10 issues (indicator B3). Two of the papers in this group are published in journals with Quartile Q3 (B3-8 - SJR 0.25 and B3-9- SJR 0.29), and one - with Q4 (B3-10, IF- 0.3). The total number of points for the evaluation of that category of publications is 139,5 (100 points required), i.e. exceeding the minimum required for taking the academic position of Associate Professor in the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, in the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the Agricultural University.*

- * *Published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1 issue (indicator G 6 – 40 points).*
- * *Papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases – 8 issues (indicator G 7 – 125 points).*
- * *Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 19 issues (indicator G 8 – 74,54 points).*

The number of points required is 200 (indicator G total) and the applicant achieves 242,54 points

Papers are published in the following journals:

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 брой, International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry -1 issue, Agriculture & Food - 3 issues.

The articles published in Proceedings amount to 15 issues, 7 of them of national scientific conferences with international participation and 8 – in Proceedings of international scientific conferences.

38 scientific publications in the scientific specialty are taken into consideration in preparing the statement.

Teaching activity

Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD has 9 years and 4 months of teaching experience, entirely in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil science at Agricultural University, Plovdiv. During this period, he conducted exercises and lectures to full-time and part-time students from Bachelor and Master degrees. For the past five years (2018-2023), he has lead a total of 2889,45 hours.

The teaching activity is complemented by the fact that under his scientific guidance, 9 diplomants are successfully graduated. The candidate has 6 current graduates.

Research activity

Areas of publication

The areas, in which Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD carries out research studies and publishes the results of his research activity, are mainly:

Studies related to determining the suitability of terrains for creating and growing perennial crops. Research 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 studies are methodologically properly conducted, and experimental results from them were thoroughly at a high scientific level discussed.

Fifteen scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions have been formulated. They accurately reflect the results of the studies carried out and I fully accept the candidate report prepared.

Author Citations

The number of the presented citations are 6 (self-citations are not included). Four of them are in scientific issues, refereed and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases (Scopus and Web of science) and two in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The required number of points for citations is 50 and the applicant has presented materials for 70 points.

Participation in projects

Although that for the projects are not required for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD has involved in 11 scientific, projects. 7 of them are implementers, one scientific-researcher at AU-Plovdiv and 2 at the Faculty of Agriculture at Trakia University - St. Zagora. The candidate participates in one international project at the Bulgarian National Science Fund.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the applicant's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I believe that Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented materials are enough in volume and meet the minimum scientific metrical requirements for occupying the academic position. His research is up-to-date and the results enable the applicant to present a significant number of research and applied contributions and achievements in the field of soil science.

That is the reason for me to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation of his overall research activity.

I allow myself to propose to the Honorable Scientific Board to vote positive and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University to elect Chief Assist. Prof. Mladen Pavlov Almaliev PhD as „**Associate Professor**“ in the scientific specialty “Soil science”.

Date: 17.04.2024
Plovdiv

**PREPARED
STATEMENT:**

(Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova)