



OPINION

on the dissertation for the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in: field of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)"

Author of the dissertation:

Butrint Bytichi, doctoral student in independent study, at the Department of Economics at the Agrarian University, Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation:

THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentina Ivanova Marinova, Higher School of Agribusiness and Regional Development – Plovdiv, 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, the scientific specialty "Economics and Finance", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No. RD-16-970/03.10.2025 by the Rector of the University of Kosovo.

1. Relevance of the problem.

The dissertation examines a particularly relevant topic: "The role of agriculture in the economic development of the Republic of Kosovo" agriculture and its economic development are based on food security, employment in rural areas, social stability and structural transformation. Agriculture is of strategic importance for the Republic of Kosovo and is a vital element of the national economy. Modern challenges in connection with EU integration affect national policies and ways to ensure institutional modernization and investments. Substantiation of the role of agriculture in the economic development of the Republic of Kosovo in the context of the concept of sustainable development, incl. poverty reduction, job creation, economic development and environmental sustainability, necessitates the search for solutions to realize the potential of the sector through comprehensive reform, targeted investments and institutional coordination.

Broad debates on the transformative processes and the impact of contemporary trends in digitalization and green economy, offer contributions in various aspects – for the formulation of national strategies and development plans. 2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

I accept the formulated purpose, object and subject of the study as correct and correctly reflecting its essence. The national economy of the Republic of Kosovo, as the subject of the study, is examined in the context of economic growth and ways to achieve sustainable development. The impact of agriculture on sustainable development in the Republic of Kosovo, as the subject of the study, is analyzed through key indicators and the application of systemic analysis, including. role in the national economy, institutional measures, impact of globalization on efficiency and competitiveness, etc. Supplementing with analyses of EU policies and comparative

analyses in the Western Balkans and Turkey provides a regional perspective for the development of the sector. achieved. The research tasks set for the implementation of the goal are quite detailed and comprehensive, to achieve sustainable economic development of agriculture in the Republic of Kosovo. The application of the methods of analysis and synthesis for systematizing the concepts of economic growth and development of agriculture, as a main sector, induction and deduction for building hypotheses and drawing conclusions. The recommendations for building effective strategies for the development of the sector and having a positive impact on sustainable economic development in the region. The main hypothesis that "the agricultural sector has a significant role in the economic development of the Republic of Kosovo" is proven. All three supporting hypotheses are scientifically substantiated for the integration of new technologies, improving production and competitiveness of the sector, the positive effect of sustainable agricultural practices and policies on the long-term sustainability of the sector and its role and importance.

3. Visualization and presentation of the results obtained.

The dissertation is 238 pages long, contains 43 figures and 50 tables, which clearly illustrate the research conducted. The indicated literary sources used are 264 in number, relevant to the research conducted. It follows the classic three-chapter structure, presenting the derived studies in a logical sequence. The European and regional context in the development of agriculture addresses the EU Common Agricultural Policy, reforms and challenges, lessons for the Republic of Kosovo, the Western Balkans and Turkey, opportunities for policy harmonization and future development. The empirical studies cover analyses of the macroeconomic environment and structural characteristics of the economy of the Republic of Kosovo. The structure and manner of presentation reflect the conducted scientific studies and allows easy tracking of the achieved results. Scientifically based recommendations for the development of agriculture as a factor for economic growth are derived.

4. Discussion of the results and used literature.

The conclusions are focused on several main aspects: a comprehensive review of the main theories of economic growth with an emphasis on endogenous theories, emphasizing the role of innovation, human capital and institutional capacity, on the basis of which the need for a supportive environment for investments in these areas is justified. Regional challenges facing fragmented agricultural holdings, underdeveloped infrastructure and limited access to finance; identification of weaknesses in the implementation of agricultural policies and community standards in the Republic of Kosovo in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, environmental requirements and market orientation of subsidy schemes, etc. Based on the presented empirical evidence, the main conclusion is that the sector has significant potential for improving productivity, competitiveness and incomes in rural areas, which can be realized through institutional reforms, targeted investments and policies to ensure its inclusive and sustainable development.

The recommendations derived from the conducted studies are presented in several main areas:

- Improving the competitiveness of the agri-food chain
- Modernization of production and infrastructure and support for small

Farms

- Improving the level of education, training and advisory services
- Finance, innovation and engagement of young people
- Policy coherence and institutional strengthening
- Progress of agrarian reform in the Republic of Kosovo in accordance with the CAP

In conclusion, it is proven that "a dynamic and well-supported agricultural sector is fundamental not only for the prosperity of rural areas, but also for the broader national economic development and long-term socio-economic stability".

5. Contributions of the dissertation work.

I accept the scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied

contributions indicated in the abstract as original and credible and the personal work of the doctoral student.

Scientific contributions:

- a synthesis of growth theories is made,
- the possibilities for adapting the CAP are presented,
- the relationship between macroeconomic stability and agricultural development is substantiated
- a theoretical multilateral framework for agricultural competitiveness is proposed

Scientific and applied contributions:

- empirical evidence is provided for the role of agriculture in the economic growth of the Republic of Kosovo
- policy recommendations for agricultural modernization and EU integration are formulated
- structural gaps in the implementation of agricultural policy are identified
- a framework for monitoring and evaluation is proposed

6. Critical notes and questions.

I recommend publishing a monograph based on the dissertation and presenting the results of the research conducted at scientific forums in order to promote and share them with the scientific community and colleagues working on the issues under consideration. To publish part of his scientific output in refereed and indexed publications with an impact factor, included in world-renowned databases of scientific information, such as Scopus, Web of Science, etc.

I would like to pose the following question to the doctoral student: Will the digitalization of the agricultural sector lead to a transformative change, both for the agricultural sector and for rural areas in the EU and in particular in the Republic of Kosovo.

7. Published articles and citations.

The three scientific publications presented meet the requirements of the Law on Agricultural and Rural Development of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations

for its implementation and cover the minimum scientometric indicators for acquiring the ONS "doctor". The scientific research and conclusions presented in them are in relation to the topic and contributions of the dissertation.

The presented abstract objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation work.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the various research methods learned and applied by the doctoral student, the correctly conducted experiments, the generalizations and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation work meets the requirements of the Law on the State of Agricultural Research and Development of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVELY

I would like to propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also vote positively to award Butrint Bytichi the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the scientific specialty of Economics and Management (Agriculture)"

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Date: 30.10.2025 god.

Plovdiv

PREPARED BY OPINIC

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Val

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