АГРАРЕН УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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OPINION

Regarding the competition for a "professor" in the scientific specialty "Forage production and grazing", announced in SG no. 65 of 17.07.2026 with candidate Atanas Veselinov Sevov from Agrarian University - Plovdiv, Department of Plant Science, appointed according to Order No. RD 16-901/17.09.2026 of the Rector of Agrarian University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief Profile of the Candidate. Atanas Veselinov Sevov was born on April 21, 1976, in Sofia. From 1994 to 2002, he studied at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, graduating as an agricultural engineer specializing in Field Crop Production. In 2011, he defended his doctoral dissertation titled "Study of the Influence of Certain Agrotechnical Factors on the Productivity and Quality of Multifoliate Alfalfa" at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. From that year until 2017, he held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor, engaging in the following activities: Teaching and scientific research; conducting lectures and practical sessions; developing educational materials; participating in research projects; publishing scientific findings; and participating in scientific forums and academic committees. In 2017, he attained the academic rank of Associate Professor, and since 2020, he has served as the Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. As Chair of the Faculty Council, his responsibilities include: Organizing and managing the faculty's educational, research, and administrative activities; coordinating academic staff and educational programs; and participating in the development and implementation of strategic documents and development programs for the faculty.

2. General description of the scientific output. Atanas Veselinov Sevov participates in the competition for the academic rank of "Professor" with a total of 31 works, categorized as follows:

ϖ Scientific publications within the relevant field – 29 items,

of which: - Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 2 items (which are not subject to review);

- Publications with an impact factor – 7 items;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals – 27 items;
- Publications in conference proceedings – 7 items.

Atanas Veselinov Sevov's personal contribution to these 31 works is evidenced by the following: he is the sole author of one work, the first author of nine, the second author of three, and the third (or subsequent) author of the remaining eighteen.

ϖ Textbooks – 1 item.

ϖ Study guides/manuals – 1 item.

A total of 31 items are subject to analysis for the purpose of this assessment.

3. Teaching activity. Assoc. Prof. Sevov's teaching activity is categorized as follows: Teaching workload. During the period 2021–2026, the candidate conducted practical exercises, delivered lectures, and engaged in extracurricular academic activities, amounting to a total workload of 2,875.3 hours. His teaching activity also includes the supervision of two students who have successfully defended their theses. Published

teaching materials. There are two published teaching materials: a textbook and a study guide/manual. 17 study programs have been developed.

4. **Research Activity. Areas of Publication**. The candidate publishes in the fields of crop production, forage production, grassland management, and agricultural mechanization. Citations and Indexing of Scientific Output. The number of citations serves as an indicator of the author's recognition. The candidate has presented 10 citations from domestic and international authors in publications featured in refereed and indexed journals. Participation in Research Projects. The candidate presents two externally funded projects, which meet the national requirements for the academic position of Professor.

5. Remarks and Recommendations. My recommendation to the candidate is to publish the results of his research work more frequently as a sole author.

6. Conclusion. Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, research, and applied-research activities, I consider that Atanas Veselinov Sevov meets the requirements set forth in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Application of the LDASRB, and the internal regulations of the Agricultural University. For the purpose of the competition for the academic position of Professor, the candidate has submitted a body of scientific work that is sufficient in both volume and quality. He is recognized—both in Bulgaria and abroad—as an established scholar, a fact evidenced by the citations of his work. His teaching and pedagogical experience is also extensive and highly respectable; in addition to successfully supervising doctoral students, he has a substantial teaching load as a lecturer. All of this leads me to provide a POSITIVE assessment of his overall work. I would like to suggest that the esteemed Scientific Jury also cast a positive vote, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect Atanas Veselinov Sevov to the position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty of Forage Production and Grassland Management.

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City of Plovdiv

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