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OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Plant Growing," announced in the State Gazette, Issue 65 of July 17, 2026, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva Georgieva;
prepared by Prof. Dr. Gergana Nikolova Desheva (Institute of Plant Genetic Resources – Sadovo), appointed as a member of the scientific jury pursuant to Order No. RD 16-902 dated September 17, 2026, issued by the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD, was born on February 23, 1988, in Haskovo. In 2007, she completed her secondary education at the "Geo Milew" Foreign Language High School in Dobrich. In 2011, she obtained a Bachelor's degree in "Agronomy (Field Crop Production)" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. In 2013, she completed a Master's program in "Plant Protection" at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, Austria.

In 2019, she defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic "Varietal Specificity of Triticale (x*Triticale* Wittm.) Treated with Plant Stimulants Under Different Soil Nutrient Regimes", obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" (PhD).

Her professional career began in 2014 as a technical associate-agronomist at "SGS-Bulgaria". From January 21, 2020, to July 1, 2022, she held the academic position of "Assistant" at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, and since July 1, 2022, she has been an "Assistant Professor" at the same university.

With over six years of professional experience accumulated at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Dr. Georgieva has consistently expanded her qualifications and professional competencies. In this regard, she has participated in three international and four national training courses. Her research activities include participation in one project funded by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, as well as four externally funded projects and contracts.

Since 2021, Dr. Georgieva has been a member of ENOAT, and since 2022, she has served as the Secretary-General of ENTER. She is fluent in German, English, and Spanish and possesses skills in working with a wide range of modern information technologies and specialized software.

2. General description of the scientific output.

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD, participates with a total of 25 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- *Scientific publications within the relevant field of specialization – 25 in total, comprising:*

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 4 (which are excluded from consideration);

- Publications with an impact factor and/or impact rank – 12;

- Publications in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals – 8;

- Publications in conference proceedings – 0;

- A book based on the defended doctoral dissertation (for the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor") – 1.

The personal contribution of Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD, in the 20 evaluated works is demonstrated by the fact that she is the sole author of 7, the first author of 8, the second author of 3, and the third author of the remaining 2.

A total of 20 scientific works are subject to analysis for this opinion.

3. Teaching Activity.

As of July 20, 2026, the teaching experience of Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD, in the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv amounts to 6 years and 6 months.

Teaching Workload.

According to the provided certificate, covering the period from the 2021/2022 to the 2025/2026 academic years, Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD has accumulated a total of 2,366.6 hours of teaching-related activities (including lectures, practical exercises, extracurricular academic activities, and Erasmus-related work) within the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs. This total is distributed as follows: 54 hours of lectures, 1,324.5 hours of practical exercises, 473.7 hours of extracurricular academic activities, and 514.4 hours related to the Erasmus program.

Her teaching activity is complemented by the supervision of 6 students who have successfully defended their theses. Currently, she is supervising 4 diploma theses for students at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Developed Curricula.

During her tenure as a lecturer, the candidate has developed 2 curricula, specifically:

1. Biological and conventional production of industrial crops – 30 hours of lectures / 30 hours of practical exercises;
2. Climate-smart agriculture – 20 hours of lectures / 20 hours of practical exercises.

4. Research Activity.

Areas of Publication.

The research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Rumyana Georgieva focuses on investigating various agrotechnical and technological factors that influence the development, productivity, and quality of agricultural crops. Her research is based on experimental work involving the cultivation of cereals and essential-oil-bearing plants, as well as the assessment of how major field crops respond to various controlled environmental conditions. The primary thematic areas of the candidate's research include:

1. Investigation of the effects of different fertilization systems on the growth, yield, and productivity of the oil-bearing rose (*Rosa damascena*).
2. Evaluation of the application of plant biostimulants and their impact on the productive characteristics of essential-oil-bearing crops and cereals.
3. Comparative analysis of the agronomic traits and economic suitability of various lavender varieties.
4. Study of the influence of different cultivation conditions and environmental factors on the quantitative and qualitative indicators of maize.
5. Investigation of specific agrotechnical practices and possibilities for optimizing the cultivation technology for the oil-bearing rose (*Rosa damascena*).

Assessment of the effects of foliar-applied products on the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of clary sage (*Salvia sclarea*) and coriander. Based on the presented scientific results, the candidate has identified original scientific and applied-scientific contributions related to the issues under investigation and the experimental data

obtained. These contributions reflect both an expansion of scientific knowledge in the relevant fields and the potential for the practical application of the results in agricultural production. I accept the presented contributions, as I consider them to be consistent with the thematic scope and the outcomes of the candidate's research activities.

Citations and indexing of scientific output.

For the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor," the candidate has presented a total of 6 citations of two of her publications; all these citations appear in journals indexed and abstracted in the international databases Web of Science and Scopus. Of these, 3 are in journals belonging to the highest quartile (Q1).

Participation in research projects.

The candidate has participated in a total of five research projects. Two of these are included in the table of scientometric indicators for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor." In one instance, she served as the principal investigator for a project funded under the National Program "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Fellows," while in the second, she participated as a member of the research team for a project funded by the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

5. Remarks and Recommendations.

Inaccuracy noted: In the table of scientometric indicators, the points from the included projects have not been listed. These points should be added to the overall point score across all indicator groups.

Recommendation: I recommend that the candidate synthesize her accumulated lecture and practical experience by preparing and publishing an independent textbook/manual for students at the Agricultural University.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific, and applied scientific activities, I consider that **Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD,** meets the requirements set forth in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the specific regulations of the Agricultural University.

The presented scientific works possess undisputed scientific and applied contributions, and her publication activity and project involvement exceed the minimum national criteria.

All of the above gives me reason to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation to her overall work.

I allow myself to propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively as well, and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Crop Science at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Assistant Professor Rumyana Georgieva, PhD,** to the academic position of **"Associate Professor"** in the scientific specialty **"Crop Science"**.

Date:26.10.2026
Sadovo

Prepared the Opinion:
/Prof. Dr. Gergana Desheva/