АГРАРЕН УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
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OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of *Professor* in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional area 6.1. Crop Science, scientific specialty: *Fodder Production and Meadow Management*, announced in the state Gazette, issue 65/ 17.07.2026, with a single candidate Assoc. Prof. Atanas Veselinov Sevov, PhD.

Opinion reviewer: Prof. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova, PhD, professional area 6.1. Crop Science, scientific specialty: *Crop Science*, assigned a member of the scientific jury according to Order № РД 16-901/17.09.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Atanas Veselinov Sevov graduated from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in 2002 obtaining a Master's degree in Agronomy. In 2011 he was awarded the educational and scientific degree of *Doctor (PhD)* after the successful defense of his doctoral thesis titled *Study of the Influence of Certain Agrotechnical Factors on the Productivity and Quality of Multifoliate Alfalfa*. Since 2008 he has successively held the academic positions of Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor. Since 2017 he has occupied the academic position of *Associate Professor* in the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov's primary activities involve delivering lectures and conducting practical classes in crop science disciplines to full-time and part-time Bachelor's and Master's students, supervising diploma graduates and doctoral candidates, as well as conducting field experiments and publishing the obtained results. In 2020 he was elected a Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy, and since 2024 he has continued to successfully lead the faculty during his second mandate. Assoc. Prof. Sevov is fluent in English and Russian.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the present competition Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov participates with **68** scientific publications in total in the designated specialty categorized as follows:

- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum science-metric requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of *Doctor* – **2** (not subject to review);
- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum science-metric requirements for obtaining the academic position of *Associate Professor* – **37** (not subject to review);
- Scientific publications meeting the national minimum science-metric requirements for obtaining the academic position of ***Professor*** – **29** (submitted for the current competition).
  - Publications with an impact factor – **7**;
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – **27**;
  - Publications in conference collective volumes – **1**, plus 1 in a journal covering developments in Bulgarian and international agriculture.

The scientific publications submitted for the academic position of *Professor*—excluding those previously presented for the scientific degree of *Doctor* and the academic position of *Associate Professor* —are 29 items in total, categorized as follows:

* Publications in refereed and indexed journals within globally recognized scientific databases – 10 (indicator B4). 5 of them appear in journals with a quartile ranking, impact rank and/or impact factor. The total number of points for this category of

publications is 120.28 (out of required 100 points), thus exceeding the minimum requirement for the academic position of *Professor*.

* Publications in refereed and indexed journals within globally recognized scientific databases – 17. 5 of them appear in journals with a quartile, impact rank, and/or impact factor. These publications fall under indicator Г7 representing 207.5 points.
* Publications in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or in edited collective volumes – 2 (indicator Г8) – 7.5 points;

The total number of points required for indicator Г is 200 points, whereas Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has accumulated 215 points.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov's personal contribution to the 29 publications is evidenced by the fact that he is the independent author of one, the first author of eight, the second author of nine, and the third (or subsequent) author of the remaining eleven.

A total of **29** publications were analyzed for the purpose of the opinion.

3. Teaching activities.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Veselinov Sevov has over 18 years of teaching experience gained entirely within the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. During this period he has read lectures and practical classes to full-time and part-time undergraduate students in Agronomy (Field Crop Production), Zoo-engineering, Zoo-engineering with Information Technology, Agrarian Tourism and Agronomy (Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping. He is the leader of the Master's program entitled *Digitalization and Management of Crop Production.*

Candidate's teaching workload.

Over the last five-year period (2021–2026) the candidate has conducted a total amount of 2,875.3 classes (average annual workload of 575.06 classes).

In addition, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has supervised 24 students who have successfully defended their theses: 19 Master graduates and 5 Bachelor graduates.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Sevov has been an academic supervisor to two doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertation works at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Atanas Sevov is a co-author of one published textbook on crop science.

Syllabus development.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has developed a total number of 17 syllabuses: 15 in Bachelor's programs (covering both compulsory and elective courses) and 2 in Master's programs (covering elective courses).

4. Research activities.

Areas of publication.

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov is related to studies in several interconnected fields focused on the sustainable management and productivity of grassland ecosystems, the application of modern digital and modeling approaches, as well as the investigation of the impact of climatic, soil, and biological factors on crop production.

The research studies have been conducted methodologically proper in its design and execution, and the results have been discussed in depth and at a high scientific level.

Ten scientific-theoretical and eleven scientific-applied contributions have been formulated. These accurately reflect the results of the conducted studies, as I fully accept the summary prepared by the candidate.

Citation and indexing of the scientific production.

The number of the presented citations is 10 (excluding self-citations). All appear in scientific publications that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases—Scopus and Web of Science—and possess an impact factor and/or impact rank.

The significance of the citations is further underscored by the fact that nine of them appear in journals with a quartile ranking. Four of the citations are in Q1 journals, three in Q4, and by one in Q2 and Q3 journals. Regarding this indicator, the requirement is 100 points, whereas Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has 150 points in total.

Participation in scientific projects.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has participated in two national scientific programs: *Smart Crop Production* and *Smart Livestock Farming*. He has been involved in four work packages: Robotic Technologies, Advanced Technologies for Crop Monitoring and Cultivation, Comparative Analysis of IoT, UAV and Robotic Technologies and Intelligent Management System for Crop Cultivation Technologies. The candidate leads a work package focused on intelligent systems for monitoring and analyzing the productivity of pastures and meadows using stationary and mobile sensor arrays, computer vision, and remote sensing methods.

5. Conclusion.

Taking into account the analysis of the candidate`s teaching, research and applied activities I consider that Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application, as well as the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. The submitted materials significantly exceed the science-metric requirements for the occupation of the academic position of *Professor*. The candidate`s research studies are topical and the obtained results have led to plenty of scientific and applied contributions in the field of fodder production and meadow management.

All this gives me grounds to evaluate **POSITIVELY** the candidate`s overall work.

I allow myself to propose to the honorable scientific jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov, PhD**, for the academic position of ***Professor*** in the scientific specialty: ***Fodder Production and Meadow Management***.

Date: 20th October 2026
Place: the city of Plovdiv

Opinion reviewer: .....
(Prof. Vanya Delibaltova, PhD)