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# OPINION

regarding a competition for a "professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.1. Crop science, scientific specialty "Forage production, meadow farming", announced in the State Gazette No. 65/ 17.07.2026 with a sole candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Veselinov Sevov.

by Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, professional field 6.1. Crop science, scientific specialty "Field crops", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD 16-901/17.09.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

**1. Brief presentation of the candidate.**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Veselinov Sevov graduated from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in 2002 as a Master of Science in Agronomy. In 2011, he obtained the PhD "Doctor" after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Study of the influence of some agrotechnical factors on the productivity and quality of multi-leaf alfalfa". Since 2008, he has successively held the academic positions of assistant and chief assistant, and from 2017 to the present he is an associate professor in the Department of Crop science. He was elected Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy in 2020, which he continues to lead during the current second term.

**2. General description of scientific output.**

In the report on the implementation of the minimum scientometric indicators, Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov participated with a total output of scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 68 issues, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 2 issues, which are not subject to evaluation;
- Scientific publications for the acquisition of the academic position of "associate professor" - 37 issues, which are not subject to peer review;
- Scientific publications for the acquisition of the academic position of " professor " – 29 issues that the candidate submits for participation in the competition for professor. The works in question are grouped into the following groups of criteria:
  - Publications with impact factor – 7 issues.
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 27 issues;
  - Publications in conference proceedings – 2 issues.

The scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Sevov, which do not repeat those submitted for the acquisition of the PhD "Doctor" and "Associate Professor", are 29 and are grouped as follows:

- Articles in refereed and indexed publications in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 10 issues forming 120 points, 20 points more than required.
- Publications in refereed and indexed publications in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 17 issues, forming 207.5 points.
- Publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 2 issues – 7.5 points;

In total, Assoc. Prof. Sevov scored a total of 215 points on indicator D, 15 more than the required 200.

**3. Teaching activities.**

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Sevov has been entirely in the Department of Crop science at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for over 18 years. During all these years, he has given lectures and exercises in various specialties - Agronomy (Field crops), Agronomy (Ornamental Horticulture and Landscaping), Animal Engineering, Agricultural Tourism in the Bachelor's Degree Program and Ornamental Plants and Landscape Design in the Master's Degree Program for full-time and part-time students. All classes taught by the candidate are entirely related to the scientific specialty "Forage Production, Meadow Farming". He has not given classes in other scientific specialties - mass practice in other Universities.

Over the last five years, the candidate has completed a total of 2875.3 hours, of which direct average annual classroom work – 575.06 hours.

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov is a co-author of a published textbook on Field crops. He is also the head of the master's course "Digitalization and Management of Crop Production". He has developed 17 curricula. He was the scientific supervisor of two successfully defended PhD doctoral dissertations.

**4. Scientific research activity.**

*Areas of publication.*

From the scientific publications submitted for evaluation, it can be summarized that the scientific research of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Sevov are mainly focused on the productivity and sustainable management of forage ecosystems, the application of modern digital and modeling approaches, as well as on studying the influence of biotic and abiotic factors on crop production.

The candidate's report on the contributions of his research work is consistent with the results obtained. The formulated 10 scientific-theoretical and 11 scientific-applied contributions correctly reflect the results of the conducted research.

*Citing and referencing scientific production.*

According to the citations report, 10 citations are presented. All of them are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases - Scopus and WoS , and all of them have an impact factor and/or impact rank.

The candidate's recognition in scientific circles is also determined by the fact that 9 of the citations of his publications are in quartile journals. Four of them are in journals with Q1, three - Q4, and one each in journals with Q2 and Q3. According to this indicator, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Sevov has 150 points, 50 above the required ones.

*Participation in scientific projects.*

Assoc. Prof. Atanas Sevov has participated in the work packages "Robotic Technologies", "Advanced Technologies for Monitoring and Cultivation of Crops", "Comparative Analysis of IoT, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Robotic Technologies" and "Intelligent System for Management of Crop Cultivation Technologies". He has participated in two national scientific programs "Intelligent Crop Production" and "Intelligent Livestock Production". Assoc. Prof. Sevov is also the head of a work package related to intelligent systems for monitoring and analyzing the productivity of pastures and meadows through stationary and mobile sensor complexes, computer vision and remote sensing methods .

**5. Conclusion.**

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Sevov meets the requirements of the Law and the Regulations

of the Agrarian University for its application. All classes conducted by the candidate are entirely related to the scientific specialty "Forage Production, Meadow Farming". The materials presented significantly exceed the scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "professor". The scientific research presented by the candidate is at a modern level and their results allow the candidate to present a sufficient number of scientific and applied scientific contributions related to the scientific specialty.

All this gives me reason to evaluate his overall activity **POSITIVELY .**

I would like to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atanas Veselinov Sevov as "professor" in the scientific specialty "Forage Production, Meadow Farming".

Date: 21.10.2026
Plovdiv

**Prepared the opinion:** .....
(Prof. Dr. Hr. Kirchev)