

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

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Concerning the competition for "Associate professor" in a professional field 6.1. Plant growing, in the scientific specialty "Viticulture", announced in SG №. 6 from 22.01.2021 with candidate Boyan Stalev Stalev

by Prof. Dr. Valentina Boncheva Bozhkova, appointed according to Order № РД 16-414 / 05.04.20 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the Scientific jury

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev Stalev is the only candidate in the announced competition for "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. Boyan Stalev graduated in 2001 from the Technical School of Agricultural Mechanization in the town of Yambol. In 2006 he completed a master's degree. at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv with a specialty "Production of seeds and planting material". In 2008 he obtained a certificate of professional qualification teacher. Since 2009 he has been a PhD student, and in 2013 he defended a dissertation on "Comparative study of organic and conventional production of dessert grapes in the area of the village of Nayden Gerovo, Plovdiv region" and was awarded the scientific degree "Doctor". His professional development began in 2008 when he was appointed assistant, and since 2013 he has been an Assistant professor at the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture. He has the necessary education and qualification, a basic level of English and Polish, as well as very good computer skills, which allow him to successfully conduct research and teaching activities.

### 2. General description of the scientific production

In the competition for "Associate professor" the candidate participates with a total production of 34 works, grouped as follows:

*Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty* - 33 issues, of which:

*Publications related to the doctoral dissertation* - 3 issues that are not subject to review;

*Monograph* - 1 issue

*Book based on a defended dissertation* - 1 issue

*Publications in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information* - 11 issues

*Publications in peer-reviewed and peer-reviewed scientific journals* - 9 issues; -

*Publications in conference proceedings* - 8 issues; -

*Student handbook* - 1 issue

31 issues are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.



The monograph presents results related to the design and cultivation of organic vines. The work is richly illustrated with figures and photographs and 104 contemporary literature sources are cited. The development can be useful for researchers, professionals and students. On the basis of the defended dissertation a book was published, thus popularizing the results obtained from the comparative study of organic and conventional production of table grapes in the area of the village of Nayden Gerovo, Plovdiv region. The personal participation of Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev in the above 31 works is illustrated by the fact that 5 issues are independent, in 4 issues - is the first, in the 9 issue - is the second, and in the others is the third and next author. From this distribution it is clear that Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev is able to work equally well both individually and in a team. Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev has participated in 7 international and national conferences with 6 oral presentations and 2 posters, which has contributed to the promotion of the results of his research.

### **3. Teaching activity**

Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev is a lecturer in the Department of Viticulture and Fruitgrowing at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv and has a total teaching experience of 13 years. The presented reference for the academic employments of the candidate shows that for the last 5 years (2015 -2020) he has an employments of 2446.8 hours, of which 628 hours of lectures, 1375.5 hours of exercises and 443.3 hours of extracurricular employments in the disciplines. "Viticulture", "Viticulture and biotechnological methods" and "Production of vine propagating material". He has participated in nine Erasmus mobilities at the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, Poland, eight of which are for teaching purposes. Dr. Boyan Stalev has conducted five training seminars organized by NAAS and Agricultural University - Plovdiv with a total number of 32 hours.

#### *Published teaching materials*

Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev is a co-author of the "Guide to Viticulture and Enology", published by the West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, Poland. He has developed 3 curricula in viticulture for the Bachelor's degree in Plant Protection and Agronomy and one for the Master's degree in Viticulture with Fundamentals of Winemaking.

### **4. Research activity**

#### *Areas of publication*

Various aspects related to the production of grapes - dessert and wine varieties have been studied. New varieties have been studied, the influence of a large number of rootstock combinations. Agrochemical studies have been performed and physiological parameters related to different soil surface maintenance have been determined, the results of pruning and loading of certain varieties have been studied, some elements of propagation and production of vine planting material in Bulgaria have been studied, mechanical composition and quality of grapes and wines in new and promising varieties have been determined. The efficiency of application of



herbicides for weed control has been studied, the possibility for control of grape moth on the vine was studied, economic studies related to the organic production of vines were made.

I accept the author's reference for the contributions, but I believe that they should be shorter and clearly formulated and arranged according to the nature of the contributions in order to be clear and easy to group.

*Citing and abstracting scientific research.*

From the presented information it can be seen that the total number of citations of Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev are 17, and the cited works are 6. Five of the citations are in referenced foreign editions, two in monographs and volumes with scientific review and the rest are in non-referenced Bulgarian and foreign editions. The report shows that the author is recognizable and this gives me reason to evaluate this fact positively.

*Participation in research projects.*

Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev has participated in 5 competitively funded research projects at the Central Research Institute of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Four of these are research, and one is to motivate students to work actively in their future profession. He also participated in an implementation contract with „Арпо Пром ЕООД“ in the village of Karavelovo, Plovdiv region.

## **5. Remarks and recommendations.**

I have a recommendation to the candidate to join the training of graduates and doctoral students.

## **6. Conclusion.**

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I consider that Assistant professor Dr. Boyan Stalev Stalev meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Application of the Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for its application.. The materials presented in the competition cover the scientometric requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Associate professor" All this gives me reason to evaluate **POSITIVELY** his overall work. I allow myself to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Horticulture with Viticulture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect **Boyan Stalev Stalev** as "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific field 6.1. Plant growing, in the scientific specialty "Viticulture".

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Plovdiv

Opinion prepared by  
( Prof. Dr. V. Bozhkova)