

## OPINION

On the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Agro chemistry", announced in SG no. 98 of 17.11.2020 with candidate chief assistant, Dr. Nikolay Momchilov Minev by Prof. DSc. Nikolay Angelov Tsenov, Dobrich, appointed as a member of the scientific jury according to Order № RD 16-51 / 22.01.2021 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Nikolay Momchilov Minev was born in 1976 in Veliko Tarnovo. The information provided in his autobiography starts from the period 1996-1999 in which he studied to become a paramedic at the Medical College, Veliko Tarnovo at the Medical Institute in Pleven. From 2005 to 2007 he completed a Master's course "Agrotechnical Technologies and Biotechnologies", AU - Plovdiv. It is related to the quality and control of raw materials and products, after harvest physiology of fruits and vegetables, food biotechnology. In 2007-2010 he was a full-time doctoral student at the University of Plovdiv, majoring in Feed Production and Pasture Breeding. Since 2009 he has been working at the University of Plovdiv, as an assistant in the Department of „Agrochemistry and Soil Science“. Since 2013, after being awarded the Educational and Scientific Degree "Doctor", he has been working in the same department as a chief assistant until now.

### 2. General description of the scientific production

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Chief Assistant Dr. Nikolay Minev participates with a total scientific production of 22 publications, grouped as follows:

- ❖ Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 22 issues, of which:
  - Publications related to the PhD Thesis - 2 issues that are not subject to review;
  - Publications in Journals with impact factor - no
  - Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals - 13 issues;
  - Publications in conference proceedings - 6 issues;

Nikolay Minev's personal participation in these 20 scientific works is illustrated by the fact that 6 of them are independent (30%), in 5 - is the first (25%), in 5 - is the second (25%), and in the remaining 4 - is the third and next co-author (20%).

- ❖ Textbooks - no information provided
- ❖ Training manuals - no information provided
- ❖ Books – 2, as a co-author [*Wheat and barley - pests, diseases and weeds, fertilization.* (2016) and *Maize - weeds, diseases and pests, fertilization.* (2018)].

To prepare the opinion, 20 scientific papers are subject to analysis

### 3. Teaching activity

The study employment of the candidate is as follows: lectures -48 hours; exercises - 1871 hours and out of classroom employment of 146 hours or in the period 2016-2020 a **total of 2064 hours.**



The teaching activity is complemented by the management of seven (7) successfully graduated graduates.

Published teaching materials. No information has been provided about this.

Developed curricula. No information has been provided about this.

#### **4. Research activity**

##### *Areas of publication*

A. The scientific publications of Dr. Minev can be conditionally divided into several groups, according to the issues in them:

1. Analysis of soil (terrains) in terms of their suitability for growing different crops, in terms of fertilization - (publications: 3, 5, 18, 19).

2. Determination of optimal doses and appropriate moments for application of fertilizers in different agricultural crops - (publications: 1, 4, 6, 16, 12).

3. Use of foliar fertilizers to increase yield and product quality - (publications: 1, 8, 11, 15, 17, 20)

4. Use of growth regulators - (publications: 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14)

B. According to the subjects of the study, the publications refer to the following several crops: cereals (4, 6, 7, 12, 16), legumes (2, 9, 10, 17, 20), berry crops (2), medicinal crops (2), vines (5, 18, 19), alfalfa (15, 17, 20), lavender (1, 8).

##### **The most important contributions from Minev's publications are:**

1. The most appropriate combinations of repeated application of nitrogen fertilizer to maize productivity have been identified in a series of publications numbered 4, 6 and 12.

2. The optimal doses and the manner of application of various growth regulators in lavender (8), in fodder peas (9, 10, 17, 20), vetch (13, 14, 17, 20), alfalfa (15, 17, 20), the action of which leads to the improvement of the productivity or the quality of the production

3. An in-depth analysis of the agrochemical, climatic and soil conditions of the lands (regions of Archar, Chernogorovo, Kavarna) was made in order to establish the specific needs for fertilization of wine varieties for the production of quality white and red wines (5,18,19).

##### *Citing and abstracting scientific research - 9 citations*

The applicant has attached copies of nine (9) notable citations to his scientific papers. In four (4) of them are cited publications in which Minev is the first author, in two (2) is the second and in the other three (3) is after the third co-author.

##### *Participation in research projects*

He has actively participated in a national research project (Support for the development of young scientists and post-doctoral students in the field of "Agricultural sciences" in the period 2009-2011.

Head of 12 implementation projects during the period 2017- 2020 through which a large part of the field experiments were organized, described later in some of the scientific publications.

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

Minev's field of professional activity is directly related to feeding and fertilizing agricultural crops. In this respect, the weakness is the lack of popular science publications on these important topics for the yield and quality of production.



I call on Dr. Minev to be more active in promoting the latest knowledge related to optimizing crop nutrition, which is one of the most important items for increasing and stabilizing their yields. This knowledge must also find a place in training aids (textbooks and manuals) as soon as possible and be accessible to the farmer.

I recommend Dr. Minev to try to organize field experiments with important for the country crops in an ecological network of 3-5 test locations for several years. Establishing the real interaction of genotype x environment x nutrition, in relation to the basic nutrients (NPK) is very relevant and provides extremely rich information for scientists and farmers. Such an endeavour is relatively easy, against the background of hundreds of trials by large companies in cereals (wheat and corn) or sunflower in the country each year.

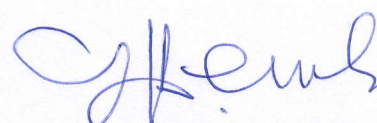
## 6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientifically applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Ch. Assistant Dr. Nikolay Momchilov Minev meets the requirements of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. His scientific and teaching activity, active participation in the educational process, his constant participation in scientific and practice-oriented external projects, show his constant commitment and aspiration for professional realization, as a scientist and teacher. His experience, presented in the provided publications, is directly related to his direct professional profile, which contributes to his positive career development, subject to this assessment. Minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activities are fully covered by all groups of criteria, as the total number of points of Dr. Minev is 486 with a requirement of 400.

All this gives me reason to evaluate **POSITIVELY** his overall activity. I allow myself to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Nikolay Momchilov Minev as "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Agrochemistry".

Date: 15.02.2021  
Dobrich

PREPARED THE OPINION:



(Prof. PhD. Nikolay Tsenov)