



STATEMENT

About: academic position "Associate Professor, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty "Soil science", announced by the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the State Gazette vol. 98/17.11.2020 r.

Applicant for the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva

Prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova, Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty "Plant growing", determined a member of the scientific jury, according to Order № RD 16-52/22.01.2021 of the Rector of the Agricultural University, Plovdiv.

Brief presentation of the applicant

Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva was born in 1980, in the town of Pleven. During the period 1998-2003, she was a student at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv, Faculty of Economics, specialty Agricultural Economics, graduating with the qualification of Economist in agricultural economics. In 2005 she obtained a master's degree in Accounting and Control. In 2008, after a competition, she was appointed as an assistant at the Agricultural University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Soil science and since 2011 she has been Chief Assistant. In 2011 she obtained the scientific-and-educational degree PhD in the scientific specialty "Soil science". The applicant has experience as a university lecturer in the disciplines "Soil science", "Forest soil science", "Melioration soil science", "Technologies for the restoration of damaged soils and terrains", "Problem soils and Chemical melioration of acidic and saline soils". She has a good command of the Russian and English languages.

General description of the scientific production

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva participates in the competition for an Assistant Professor with a total research output of 34 publications, grouped as follows:

- *Scientific publications in the scientific specialty – 34 papers, of which:*

- * *Publications related to the PhD Thesis – 3 in number, not subject to review;*
- * *Publications in refereed indexed publications in world renowned databases with scientific information – 10 issues (indicator B3). The total number of points for the evaluation of that category of publications is 169,5 (100 points required), i.e. exceeding the minimum required for taking the academic position of Associate Professor in the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, in the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the Agricultural University.*
- * *Papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases – 11 issues (indicator G 7 – 160 points).*

- * *Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 10 issues (indicator G 8 – 46.15 points). The number of points required is 200 (indicator G total) and the applicant achieves 206, 15 points.*

Papers are published in the following journals:

Agricultural Science and Technology-7 issues, Scientific papers series A. Agronomy-University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest Faculty of Agriculture – 9 issues, Scientific work - Agriculture University-Plovdiv – 6 issues, KNOWLEDGE International Journal Scientific papers – 2 issues, Ecology and Health -2 issues, International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry -1 issue. The articles published in Proceedings amount to 4 issues, 3 of them of national scientific conferences with international participation and 1 – in Proceedings of international scientific conferences.

The personal contribution of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva in the 31 publications mentioned is illustrated by the fact that in 14 of them she is the single or the first author and in 12 – she is the second and 5 - she is the third or further author.

The publication activity also includes 1 published university study guide.

31 scientific publications in the scientific specialty are taken into consideration in preparing the statement.

Teaching activity

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva has 12 years of teaching experience, entirely in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil science at Agricultural University, Plovdiv. During this time she has delivered exercises and lectures in some disciplines, such as "Soil science", "Forest soil science", "Melioration soil science", "Technologies for the restoration of damaged soils and terrains", "Problem soils and Chemical melioration of acidic and saline soils" with students, both in full-time and part-time education.

For the past five years (2015-2020), she has lead a total 2560,9 hours.

The teaching activity is complemented by the fact that under her scientific guidance, 3 Bachelor's and 2 Master's students are successfully graduated

Research activity

Areas of publication

The areas, in which Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva carries out research studies and publishes the results of his research activity, are mainly:

Study of the possibility of the calcium hydroxide and micronize limestone uses as chemical meliorants for neutralization of the harmful acidity in the soils. Study of the effect of liming with calcium hydroxide on the acidic-alkaline balance in the soil. Study of the liming with hydrated lime on the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, iron, manganese, calcium, and magnesium content in the foliage of vine varieties, grown in acidic soils. Study and identification of the response of vine rootstocks to the content of Ca^{2+} и Mg^{2+} in the nutrient solution. Study on the influence of soil acidity on the growth, development, vegetative and reproductive manifestations of vine plants. Study

of the effect of liming with micronize limestone on the soil and morphological indicators of lavender.

The studies are methodologically properly conducted, and experimental results from them were thoroughly at a high scientific level discussed.

Nine scientific-theoretical and two scientific-applied contributions have been formulated. They accurately reflect the results of the studies carried out and I fully accept the candidate report prepared.

Author Citations

The number of the presented citations is 8 (self-citations are not included). One of them is in scientific issues, refereed and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases, and seven in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The required number of points for citations is 50 and the applicant has presented materials for 50 points.

Participation in projects

Although that for the projects are not required for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva has presented three scientific, projects. One of them is funded at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv, and two projects are funded by external organizations.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the applicant's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I believe that Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented materials are enough in volume and meet the minimum scientific metrical requirements for occupying the academic position. Her research is up-to-date and the results enable the applicant to present a significant number of research and applied contributions and achievements in the field of soil science.

That is the reason for me to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation of her overall research activity.

I allow myself to propose to the Honorable Scientific Board to vote positive and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University to elect Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva an „**Associate Professor**“ in the scientific specialty “Soil science”.

Date:05.02.2021

Plovdiv

PREPARED

STATEMENT:

(Assoc.Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova)