



STATEMENT

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

Candidate for the competition: Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva (Chief Assistant Professor, PhD)

This statement is prepared by: Prof. Alexander Todorov Matev from Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty "Melioration", 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 candidate

Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva was born in 1980, in the town of Pleven. Higher education (bachelor's degree) she graduated in 2003 at the University of Plovdiv, obtaining specialty Agricultural economics. Subsequently, Dr. Valcheva continued her education, obtaining in 2005 a master's degree in "Accounting and Control". After a successful competition in 2008 she began working as an assistant at AU - Plovdiv, the department "Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry" of the Faculty of Agronomy. In 2011 he defended his dissertation on the scientific specialty "Soil Science". In the same year she became chief assistant, as is the present. The candidate conducts lectures and exercises 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". The candidate speaks and uses Russian and English languages at a good level.

General description of the scientific production

In the competition for "Associate Professor" Dr. Violeta Valcheva participates with a total of 34 scientific papers, 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 articles (indicator B3). The total number of evaluation points for this category of publications is 169.5, given that a total of 100 points are required here, ie. the candidate significantly exceeds the minimum set as a requirement for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the 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 articles from which 160 points are formed.*
- * *Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 10 articles (46 points). The number of points required is 200 (indicator G total) and the applicant achieves 206, 15 points.*

Dr. Violeta Valcheva publishes her scientific production in the following Bulgarian and foreign journals:

Agricultural Science and Technology (7 articles), *Scientific papers series A. Agronomy-University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest Faculty of Agriculture* (9 articles), *Scientific work of Agriculture University-Plovdiv* (6 articles), *KNOWLEDGE International Journal Scientific papers* (2 articles), *Ecology and Health* (2 articles), *International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry* (1 article). A significant part of the publications are presented and reported at national and international scientific conferences, ie. they are discussed and accepted by the scientific community.

It seems that the candidate can claim significant personal participation in these 31 publications, as in 14 of them she is an single or first author, in 12 - is a second, and in the remaining 5 - is a third and subsequent author.

❖ The publication activity also includes 1 published university study guide.

31 scientific publications are taken the preparing of this statement.

Teaching activity

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Steliyanova Valcheva has 12 years of teaching experience, in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil science at Agricultural University, Plovdiv. During this period she gave lectures and exercises to full-time and part-time students in the disciplines mentioned above.

According to a report made in the AU Education Department, in the last five years (2015-2020), the candidate has completed a total of 2561 school hours.

Along with the teaching activity, Dr. Valcheva successfully brings out 3 graduates from the Bachelor's Degree and 2 from the Master's Degree.

Research activity

Publication areas

With regard to science, ch. Assistant Violeta Valcheva has the following interests:

- 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 candidate's claims for contributions to science were prepared precisely on the basis of these scientific interests and the published results of the conducted experiments.

The studies are methodologically properly conducted, and experimental results from them were thoroughly at a high scientific level discussed. I believe that the contributions are credible and properly formulated.

Author Citations

The number of the presented citations is 8. 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 norm for this scientometric indicator is covered by the candidate, as she reaches the required 50 points.

Participation in projects

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Violeta Valcheva has presented three scientific projects. One of them is funded at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv, and the other two 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. The results of the presented publications are up-to-date and solve some of the problems of modern agriculture. This gives grounds for the candidate to present a significant number of scientific and scientific-applied contributions 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: 09.02.2021
Plovdiv

**STATEMENT
PREPARED:**

(prof. Alexander Matev)

