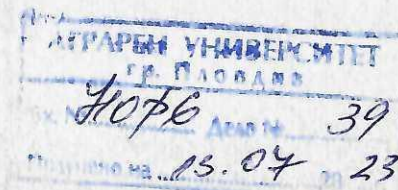


STATEMENT



Regarding the competition for "associate professor" in the scientific specialty "General agriculture" in professional direction 6.1. Plant growing, announced in State Gazette No. 21/07.03.2023 with candidate Nesho Stoyanov Neshev.

Prepared by assoc. prof. Iliyan Dimitrov Zhelyazkov, PhD, Agricultural University - Plovdiv, determined by Order № RD-16-529/11.05.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for a member of the scientific jury.

1. General data on the candidate's career and thematic development.

In the announced competition for associated professor in State Gazette No. 21/07.03.2023, the only candidate is Chief Assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD.

The brief biographical data is taken from the applicant's attached CV. He obtained his higher education in the field of agronomy at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. In the period 2004-2009, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree. Master's degree - 2010-2011. He worked on his doctoral dissertation in the period 2013-2016, and in 2016 he defended his doctoral thesis on the topic "Influence of mineral fertilization on the productivity and quality of potatoes". He also has an additional qualification in Professional Pedagogy acquired in the period 2018-2019.

He practiced his agronomic knowledge and skills, working for different companies and as a farmer in different areas of agronomy - 2006-2012.

In the period 2016-2018, he started working at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, as an research agronomist at the CBEPPP (Center for Biological Evaluation of Plant Protection Products) - herbicides department. In 2019, he was appointed as an assistant in the Department of Agriculture and Herbology, and since 2020 he has been in the position Chief Assistant.

The total working and scientific experience of the candidate is 18 years, of which 8 years at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv /four as a teacher/.

The submitted documents for participation in the competition meet the requirements of the ZRASRB and the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB.

2. General description of the presented materials.

The candidate submits all documents legally required for the competition: 1. Application to the rector; 2. A copy of the advertisement in the "State Gazette"; 3. Diploma (with the appendix) for the acquired Degree "master"; 4. Diploma for degree "Doctor"; 5. Rector's order for confirmation of selection for occupation of Academic position "Chief assistant"; 6. Curriculum vitae in European format; 7. Report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements, in accordance with Art. 19, item 7 of the ZRASRB; 7.1 General list of publications; 7.2 List of publications for participation in the contest and copies thereof; 7.3 Summaries of scientific publications and works for participation in the competition; 7.4 List of citations; 7.5 Information for impact factor; 7.6 Reference to contributions in scientific works, also reference to teaching activity and study load in the last five academic years, document of internship in the specialty, evidence of participation in projects, etc.

The candidate meets the scientometric minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate professor" according to the ZRASRB, as well as the "Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Agricultural University - Plovdiv".

Group of indicators	Group of indicators	Number of points	Number of points of the candidate
A	Dissertation work for obtaining of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"	50	50
B	Habilitation work - scientific publications (not less than 10) in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information	100	106
Г	Articles and reports published in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information	200	264,5
	Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes		7,5
Д	Citations or reviews in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes	50	100
Е	Participation in a national scientific or educational project	-	30
	A published university textbook or a textbook that is used on the school network	-	2,5
		400	560,5

In the competition for associate professor Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, participate with a total production of 42 works, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 42 issues, of which:

Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 8 which are not subject to consideration;

Publications with an impact factor – 9 items;

In journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 21 items;

In non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 3 items.

The personal participation of Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, in the mentioned 34 works is illustrated by the fact that 5 are independent /26;27;28;29,30/, in 9 he is the first author /3;4;5;6;7;8;19;21;31 /, in 1 - is the second /12/, and in the remaining 18 - is the third and next author.

Study guide - 1 item.

Total impact factor – 1.762.

For preparing the opinion, 34 items are subject to analysis.

3. Teaching activity.

From the issued certificate from the management of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, it is certified that for the period from 2018/2019 to 2022/2023 Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev had direct classroom employment with Bachelor and Master Students. His teaching consists of lectures, exercises and extracurricular activities from a total of 2238.5 hours. Of these, lectures – 26 hours, exercises – 1812.5 hours, exercises in a foreign language – 58 hours and extracurricular activities – 342 hours.

As of 01.02.2023, the teaching experience of Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev is four

years and twenty-five days.

According to data provided to me by the candidate Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD:
Academic employment of the candidate.

Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev teaches "Bachelor's" full and part time students in the specialties "Agronomy (General agronomy)", "Agronomy-Viticulture with Horticulture", "Plant Protection", "Agricultural Economics" and others. He teaches the disciplines of General Agriculture, Herbology, Systems for Weed Control in Spring Field Crops, Basics of Agriculture, etc. At the "master's" degree at the Faculty of Agronomy (Master's course: Integrated production of field crops) teaches the disciplines "Herbicide phytotoxicity - assessment and options for overcoming" and "Herbicide-tolerant varieties and hybrids".

His teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of 37 diploma students who have successfully defended their diploma thesis.

Published study materials.

Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD, participates in the authors collective of the educational aid-textbook "Innovative products for plant protection and fertilization", published in 2018.

Developed curricula.

Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD, develops a curriculum for the discipline "Herbicide-tolerant varieties and hybrids", which is studied in the Master's course "Integrated production of field crops" at the Faculty of Agronomy.

4. Scientific research activity.

The object of evaluation of the present opinion are 34 works, of which 33 scientific publications and 1 educational aid-textbook.

The scientific production was published for a period of 7 years - 2016-2022 (2016 – 3 items /9%/; 2017 – 2 items /6%/; 2018 – 4 items /12%/; 2019 – 4 items /12%/; 2020 – 10 items /31%/; 2021 - 6 items /18%/ and 2022 – 4 items /12%/), in 13 scientific journals, with 37% of the publications being in "Scientific papers, Series A. Agronomy".

In 42% of cases ch. assistant Nesho Neshev is an independent or leading author, 5 items /15%/ of them are independent articles, in 9 /27%/ of them he is the lead author, in 1 /3%/ he is the second author, in 10 /31%/ he is the third author, and in the rest he is the fourth and subsequent author.

In 88% of the publications, he is a co-author with 27 researchers from different scientific fields.

Name of the author	Number of joint publications	Number of the publication from the list
D. Balabanova-Ivanovska	3	3, 4, 5
Delibaltova	2	9, 20
Dochev	1	11
F. Cojocar	1	1
H. Uzunov	1	15
Harizanov	1	9
Kalinova Sht	1	23
M. Joita-Pacureanu	1	1
M. Naydenov	1	22
M. Nesheva	4	7, 8, 9, 19
M. Tityanov	4	10, 18, 24, 25

Manolov	2	6, 12
Mitkov	25	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33
Moskova	2	24, 25
N. Yordanova	1	9
P. Chavdarov	1	20
Petkova M	1	22
Rankova	2	24, 25
S. Manhart	1	9
Shishkova	1	9
Tonev	20	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 33
V. Akova	1	7
V. Chalova	1	12
Vasilev	1	4
Yanev	24	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33
Z. Uhr	1	20

The main language of publication is English in 97% of cases and only 3% are written in Bulgarian.

The initial data published in the presented scientific production are from conducted experiments/trials with a duration of: **one year** - articles No. 13 /2015/; 8, 19, 21 /2018/; **two years** - articles No. 14 / 2015-2016/; 1, 15, 16, 17, 22 /2016-2017/; 2, 3, 18, 31, 32, 33 / 2017-2018/; 24, 25 / 2018-2019/; **three years** - articles No. 6, 10 /2013-2015/; 9 /2015-2017/; 20 /2016-2019/; 5, 26, 27 /2017-2019/; 4, 28, 30 /2018-2020/; **four years** - articles No. 11 /2010-2014/; 7 /2017-2020/; **five years** - article No. 29 /2016-2020/; **nineteen years** - article number 23 /2001 -2019/. For article No. 12, the years and duration of the research are not indicated.

Areas of publication.

The candidate Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, develops his scientific research activity in the following four main areas of knowledge /directions/areas of publication/: management of unwanted weed vegetation /Herbology/ - 25 items. /75%/; plant nutrition – 4 items /12%/; crop rotation - 3 items /9%/ and fruit growing - 1 item /3%/.

In the most strongly advocated direction of scientific research activity - management of unwanted weed vegetation and the consequences of the use of herbicides /Herbology/ - 28% of the scientific production is concentrated in the culture Sunflower /N° 1, 11, 17, 21, 23, 26, 33/, followed by Wheat /N° 2, 13, 20, 25, 32/, and Maize /N° 10, 16, 18, 22, 24/ with 20% each, Pumpkins /N° 3, 5, 19, 27/ – 16%, Oilseed rape /N° 4, 14, 15/ – 12%, and Plum /N° 8/ – 4%.

In the second line of work - plant nutrition - 50% of the scientific output is related to surveying the Potato crop / No. 6, 12/, and 25% each for Coriander /No. 9/ and Barley /No. 31/.

In the third direction - crop rotation - the influence of the preceding crops was examined for three main economically important crops for our country - Wheat /No. 29/, Oilseed rape /No. 28/, Sunflower /No. 30/, with 33.33% each.

The fourth direction - fruit growing /No. 7/.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The candidate Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD, has presented 8 citations, of which 1 item in Bulgarian Journal, and 7 items in journals with an impact factor and in foreign publications.

Participation in scientific projects.

From the presented reference, Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, is prominently involved in 6 projects, one of which he is coordinator. One is ongoing and the other 5 have ended.

Contributions.

Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, presented a report on the contributions in his scientific works in the field of agronomy in 8 main directions, in which he formulated 31 scientific-applied contributions.

Other activities.

Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD is a European Weed Research Society (EWRS) member.

Personal impressions

I know Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, since 2006 as a student and subsequently. I have been following the thorough and painstaking research work since then. I can confidently state that the candidate is intelligent, proactive, extremely hardworking and persistent. He works diligently and tirelessly to achieve his goals. He knows how to combine knowledge and achievements from different fields of science, which is an extremely valuable quality. He is distinguished by precision and consistency in his activities, showing great responsibility. He is able to work collaboratively in a team with other researchers.

5. Remarks and recommendations.

I don't have any remarks and recommendations.

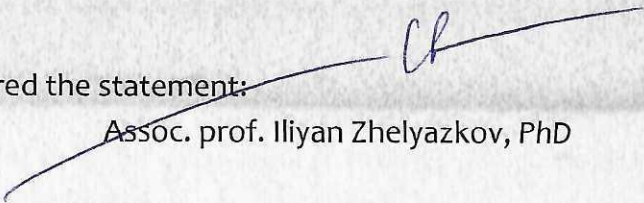
6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activities, I believe that Ch. assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, MEETS the requirements of the ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor".

All this gives me the reason to positively evaluate his overall activity. I suggest that the Scientific Jury should also vote positively, and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of AGRICULTURE at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv should choose Ch. Assistant Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD, for "Associate professor" in the scientific specialty "General Agriculture" in professional direction 6.1. Plant growing.

09.07.2023

Prepared the statement:


Assoc. prof. Iliyan Zhelyazkov, PhD