



STATEMENT

referring the competition for the academic position of an Associate Professor in the scientific speciality „General Agriculture, announced in SG issue 21 of 07.03.2023 with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD from Department of Agriculture and Herbology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv from Assoc. Prof. Neli Nikolova Prodanova-Marinova, PhD, professional field 6.2. Plant Protection, scientific speciality Plant Protection (Herbology), appointed by Order No. РД-16-529/11.05.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for a scientific jury member

1. Brief Presentation of the Candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev is the only candidate for the competition. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2009 from the Agricultural University (AU) – Plovdiv and a master's degree in 2011 with the same major from the same university. He successfully defended his dissertation thesis in 2016 and acquired a PhD degree in the scientific speciality Agricultural Chemistry. Nesho Neshev was appointed at the position of an Assistant Professor at AU – Plovdiv as of 07.01.2019. As of 13.03.2020 he held the position of a Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Agriculture and Herbology of the same university. During his work experience he has occupied various positions in the field of agriculture – worker in a nursery for ornamental plants, farmer, agronomist-researcher, etc. The candidate is fluent in English and has an additional qualification in Professional Pedagogy. He is a member of the European Weed Research Society (EWRS), member of Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A.).

2. General Description of the Scientific Production

Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD participates in the competition for an Associate Professor with a total of forty-two papers, grouped as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – forty-one issues, of which:*
 - *Publications related to the PhD dissertation thesis – eight issues that are not subject to review;*
 - *Publications with impact factor – nine issues with a total impact factor 2.977;*
 - *Publications in referred and peer-reviewed scientific journals – thirty issues. Ten of them are presented as publications according to indicator C “Habilitation work”, and the remaining twenty – according to indicator D, in line with the minimum national requirements of the Act on the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria (AASDRB);*
 - *Publications in unreferred journals with scientific review or edited collective volumes – three issues;*

The personal participation of Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD in the pointed thirty-three works is illustrated by the fact that in 5 of them he is the only author; in 9 of the rest he is the first author, in 3 publications he is the second, and in

the other 16 publications he is the third and next one. Separation protocols between the authors of the submitted publications are not attached to the materials for the competition, therefore I assume that their contribution has been equal. I have not identified any signs of plagiarism and I accept the candidate's Declaration of Originality and Authenticity, where he has stated that the results and contributions to the scientific research presented in the procedure were original and were not borrowed from the research and publications in which he has not participated.

❖ *Study manuals – one issue*

To draw up the statement, thirty-four publications were subject to analysis.

According to indicator C4 Habilitation Work - scientific publications (not less than 10) in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information with a minimum required 100 points, the candidate had 106 points. According to indicator D, with a minimum required 200 points, the candidate had obtained 272.

Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD has participated in 4 international conferences with 3 reports and 4 posters, which has contributed to the popularization of the scientific research of the collectives in which he participated.

3. Teaching Activity

Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD has been a lecturer at AU - Plovdiv since 07.01.2019, having successively held the positions of an Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor. His total teaching practice by 01.02.2023 was 04 years 00 month 25 days. For the period 2018 - 2023 he had in total lectures and exercises and extracurricular activities amounting to 2238.5 hours. This showed that the candidate had enough experience in working with students. The published study manual, *Innovative Products for Plant Protection and Fertilization. Part One*, of which the candidate is a co-author, has presented the latest achievements in the field of plant protection and fertilization of agricultural crops and is intended for students, specialists, farmers, researchers, etc.

4. Research Activity

Areas of Publication

The research achievements of Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD fully corresponded to the topic of the competition and could be classified in different areas of General Agriculture and Herbology: influence of the preceding crop in the rotation and monoculture growing of different crops; fertilization; herbicide phytotoxicity and options for overcoming it; control of non-parasitic weeds; interaction of herbicides with soil microflora; dynamics of weed associations; parasitic plants. The wide range of crops in which the studies were carried out had been impressive - potatoes, winter wheat, winter rapeseed, winter barley, sunflower, corn, coriander, pumpkin, plum.

Research Contributions

The scientific and applied contributions, formulated by the candidate, fully corresponded to the work done in these areas and I accept them without remarks.

Citing and peer-reviewing of the scientific research

The list of noticed citations of Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD includes 7 citations of four of the papers presented by the candidate, as follows: 6 issues in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) and 2 issues in non-refereed journals with scientific review. That revealed that the work of Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD had become known and evaluated by the scientific communities and had contributed to the promotion of the Bulgarian agricultural science. With a minimum of 50 points required by the Rules for Application of AASDRB on indicator E, the candidate had completed 90.

Participation in Research Projects

For the period 2016 – 2020, Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD has participated in six national scientific or educational projects: two at the Ministry of Education and Science and four at AU – Plovdiv, as the candidate had been the manager of one of them (*Herbicide Phytotoxicity in Sunflower, Rapeseed and common pumpkin and Opportunities to Overcome it by Biostimulants and Foliar Fertilizers*). Some of the published papers presented in the materials for the competition have been the result of these projects implementation.

5. Comments and Recommendations

On the basis of the presented scientific papers and the achievements illustrated by them, I believe that the candidate should focus on publishing independent works

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD meets the requirements of AASRB and the Rules for Application of AASDRB, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its implementation, as he fulfills the necessary minimum requirements for all indicators of these regulations.

All that makes me confident to assess **POSITIVELY** his overall activity.

I allow suggesting to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect Chief Assistant Professor Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD for **Associate Professor** in the scientific speciality **General Agriculture**.

Date: 04.07.2023
Plovdiv

THE STATEMENT WAS DRAWN BY:
Assoc. Professor Neli Prodanova-Marinova

