

## OPINION



**Concerning** the competition for academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty General Agriculture, announced in State Gazette № 21/07.03.2023 with candidate chief assistant **Nesho Stoyanov Neshev, PhD** from Agricultural University - Plovdiv, dept. Agriculture and Herbology.

**Prepared the opinion:** Prof. Ivan Stoyanov Zhalnov, PhD, Agricultural University - Plovdiv - retired, field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, Professional direction 6.1 Plant growing, scientific specialty General agriculture, appointed as a member of the scientific jury according to Order № RD - 16 - 529 / 11.05.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Chief Assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD, is the only candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate professor in General Agriculture. He has submitted all the necessary documents required in accordance with the ZRASRB and the Regulations for its application at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

Ch. assistant Nesho Neshev, PhD, completed his higher education at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, where he obtained the educational qualification degrees "Bachelor" in 2009 and "Master" - 2011. In 2016, he defended his dissertation and obtained the degree "Doctor" in scientific specialty Agrochemistry. After successfully passing the competition in 2019, he entered the Department of Agriculture and Herbology as an assistant. From 2020 to the present, he is on the academic position of Chief assistant. From March 2016 to the end of 2018, the candidate for the competition worked as an research agronomist at the Center for Biological Testing of Plant Protection Products – department herbicides.

In the last 7 years Ch. Assistant professor Nesho Neshev is developing as a promising lecturer and researcher who is highly valued by colleagues and students.

He speaks English at a very high level (written and spoken) and has the necessary computer skills for the level of a university teacher.

### 2. General description of the scientific production.

Chief Assistant Dr. Nesho Neshev participated in the competition for "Associate Professor" announced at the Department of Agriculture and Herbology with a total output of **41 papers**, grouped as follows:

*Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 41 issues, of which:*

- *Publications related to the doctoral dissertation - 8 issues, that are not subject to review;*
- *Publications with impact factor - 9 issues;*
- *Publications in referred and peer-reviewed scientific journals - 21 issues;*
- *Publications in unreferred journals with scientific review or in edited collective*

*volumes - 3 issues;*

The personal participation of chief assistant **Nesho Neshev, PhD**, in the mentioned **33** publications can be illustrated as follows: independent articles - **5**, in **9** - is the first author, in **2** - is the second, and in the remaining **17** - is the third and subsequent author.

The candidate participated in **4** European congresses and international symposiums with **7** reports, **3** of which were presented as oral presentations.

Total of **33** publications are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

### **3. Teaching activity.**

The educational and teaching activities of Ch. assistant **Nesho Neshev, PhD**, is connected with the performance of exercises and extracurricular activities with students in the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, in the disciplines of the Department of Agriculture and Herbology.

#### *Applicant's employment.*

From the report presented by the academic department, it can be seen that for the last 5 years, the candidate has fulfilled the required academic workload, and for this period the total number of hours of lectures, exercises and extracurricular activities is **2238.5 hours**, of which **58 hours** are in English with South African undergraduate and graduate students.

Ch. Assistant Professor Nesho Neshev teaches full-time and part-time students at "Bachelor" degree from the specialties "Agronomy (General agronomy)", "Plant protection", "Agronomy-Viticulture with horticulture", "Agricultural economics", etc. at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. As a teacher at the department of "Agriculture and Herbology", he teaches the disciplines of General Agriculture, Herbology, Basics of Agriculture, Systems of weed control in spring field crops (SWCSFC), etc., according to the specialties in the department. At "Master" degree educational level he participated in the introduction of the disciplines "Herbicide phytotoxicity" and "Herbicide-tolerant varieties and hybrids" to the Faculty of Agronomy.

#### *Published study materials.*

Ch. Assistant professor Nesho Neshev participated in the team that published the educational aid-textbook "Innovative products for plant protection and fertilization" in 2018.

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

#### *Areas of publication.*

The scientific research activity of ch. Assistant professor Nesho Neshev is quite diverse and covers the fields of General Agriculture, Plant Protection and Agrochemistry. These directions are inextricably linked with each other and provide an opportunity to build a broader worldview of the researcher.

One part of the candidate's research is related to studies on the influence of preceding crops, monoculture and fertilization of major field crops. Another part are related to herbicide phytotoxicity and possibilities for its overcoming by plants. The



candidate has also carried out studies related to the control of non-parasitic weeds in the main field crops and their influence on the development and productivity of the plants in wheat, maize, sunflower, etc. Weed associations in sunflower and parasitic weed control in sunflower and winter oilseed rape, etc. were also studied.

*Citing and abstracting of the scientific research.*

The number of noticed citations is **8**, of which **7** are in publications with an impact factor or abroad, and **1** citation is in a Bulgarian edition in English.

*Participation in research projects.*

In the last 5 years Ch. Assistant professor, *PhD*, Nesho Neshev has participated in the development in a total of 4 research projects: 2 funded by the Centre of Research, Technology Transfer and Protection of Intellectual Property Rights of AU - Plovdiv, one of which he is a project coordinator, and in 2 research projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture as well, as a member of the working team.

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

I don't have any remarks and recommendations.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Chief Assistant **Nesho Neshev, PhD**, meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application to hold the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty „General Agriculture“.

All this gives me reason to appreciate his overall activity.

I would like to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury to **vote positively**, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy, at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to choose **Chief Assistant Nesho Neshev PhD**, as "**Associate Professor**" in „General Agriculture“.

Date: 06.07.2023

City. Plovdiv

MANUFACTURED OPINION: .....  
(Prof. Iv. Zhainov, *PhD*)

