



STANDPOINT

by Prof. Shteliyana Hristova Kalinova, PhD; appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order № RD-16-529/11.05.2023, signed the Rector of the Agricultural University, regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty General Agriculture, announced in SG № 21/07.03.2023.

One candidate participated in the competition – assist. Prof., PhD Nesho Stoyanov Neshev from the Department of Agriculture and Herbology at Agricultural University – Plovdiv

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

The candidate Nesho Stoyanov Neshev was born on April 23, 1985 in Karlovo. He graduated specialty "Viticulture and Horticulture" at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv with a bachelor's degree in 2009. He obtained a master's degree in specialty "Plant protection" in 2011. In 2016, after successfully defending a dissertation he acquires ESD "Doctor" in professional field 6.1 Crop production.

During the period of his studies at AU-Plovdiv he acquired an additional qualification in professional pedagogy.

Nesho Neshev works as an assistant and as an assist.prof. in the Department of Agriculture and Herbology from the beginning of 2019 until now. Nesho Neshev, has 4 years and 25 days of experience as an assistant from the time of submitting his documents for participation in this competition. He is a co-author of 41 scientific publications. According to the common European criteria for knowledge of foreign languages, the candidate has a fluent level /C2/ of understanding, speaking and writing in English. He also has excellent computer literacy. Assist. prof. N. Neshev is a member of four scientific organizations.

2. General description of the presented materials

Nesho Neshev participated in the competition for associate professor with a total of 42 works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 41 issues, of which:
- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 8 issues, which are not subject to review;
- Publications with impact factor - 9 issues;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and peer-reviewed scientific journals - 21 issues;
- Publications in non-referred journals with scientific review, in edited collective volumes and in conference proceedings - 3 issues.

Nesho Neshev's personal participation is illustrated by the fact that of these 33 works in 9 of them he is the first author, in 2 of them he is the second, and in the remaining 17 he is the third and next author. The candidate presents 5 independently published scientific works, which shows his creativity and initiative in the scientific research work.

Study guides - 1 item. The study aid is not in the nomenclature specialty.

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

3. Teaching activity

Assist. prof. N. Neshev conducts exercises on agriculture and herbology with the students from all specialties, studying these disciplines.

Academic employment of the candidate

His total workload for conducting exercises for students of different specialties in the Educational Qualification Degree "Bachelor" and in the Educational Qualification Degree "Master" for the last four years (2019-2023) is **2238.5 hours**.

I know that his teaching activity is complemented by the guidance of a large number of successfully defended graduates. Unfortunately, a reference for the defending graduates has not been presented.

Published study materials

Nesho Neshev is the co-author of a teaching aid, which, however, is not in the nomenclature specialty of the current competition.

The candidate does not submit developed curricula.

4. Scientific research activity

Areas of publication

The candidate Nesho Neshev has authored and co-authored publications, covering a wide range of research: impact of predecessors and monoculture on major field crops; fertilization of agricultural crops; herbicide phytotoxicity and its overcoming; influence of herbicides on microbiological processes in the soil; agronomic and quality characteristics of the fruits of a new Bulgarian plum variety; weed associations in field crops and integrated weed control, etc.

Citation and referencing of scientific production

The scientific works of Associate Professor Nesho Neshev, Ph.D., has been cited in 8 articles, published respectively: in foreign and domestic journals with an impact factor – 7; in proceedings of a symposium abroad – 1 issue.

Participation in scientific projects

Assistant Prof. Nesho Neshev is a participant in 5 projects. One is a research project with external funding from the Ministry of Education for the Agricultural University-Plovdiv, two are implementation projects with funding from external organizations, one is funded by the Agricultural University-Plovdiv.

It is worth noting that in the period 2017-2019, Nesho Neshev was the head of a scientific project funded by AU, as well as a participant in a project financed by the "Scientific Research" fund with a base organization - the Institute of Fruit Growing in Plovdiv.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the individual report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for an associate professor shows that the candidate fully meets these requirements. The total number of points from all indicators of his report is 605.5. I do not accept 2.5 points from his co-authorship in the study aid.

5. Notes and recommendations

I have no objections to the correctness of the presented materials. My recommendation is that, the candidate should focus and continues his research in the field of environmentally sustainable directions in modern agriculture.

6.CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I consider that Assistant Professor Dr. Nesho Stoyanov Neshev fully meets the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application.

In addition to the volume of the production, the correctness, technical precision and clarity of its presentation make an impression. The materials with which assist.prof. Nesho Neshev participated in the competition, show him as a prepared lecturer and researcher in the field of the announced competition.

His active research, his participation in scientific organizations and forums in Bulgaria and abroad prove Dr. N.Neshev as a very good scientist and a lecturer.

All this gives me reason to appreciate his overall activity **positively**.

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 elect Nesho Stoyanov Neshev as "Associate Professor" in the Scientific Specialty "General Agriculture".

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Prepared the standpoint:
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