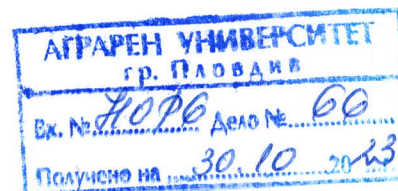


Opinion



Concernin: the competition for “associate professor” in the scientific specialty Agrochemistry, announced in the State Newspaper № 62/ 21. 07. 2023 with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Nediaalka Nikolova Yordanova PhD, Agricultural University - Plovdiv

From: Prof. Hriska Manusheva Boteva PhD, appointed according to Order № RD-16-903/25.09.2023 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the Scientific Jury.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate

Ch. Assistant professor Nediaalka Yordanova PhD is only candidate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced for the needs of the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. The documents for the competition have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on the Application of the Law and the Regulations for the Application of the Law in the AU - Plovdiv.

Nedyalka Yordanova completed her higher education with a master's degree in "Plant biotechnology" in 2003 at AU - Plovdiv. During the training in 2002, he also acquired the additional professional qualification "Consultant on agrarian-legal issues" from the Center for Additional Training at the AU. Since 2007, he has been a full-time doctoral student in the scientific specialty Plant Breeding at the Department of Crop science at AU - Plovdiv.

Nedyalka Yordanova began her professional development in 2007 after winning a competition as an assistant in the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science, and in 2010 - a senior assistant in the Department of Crop science, Agrochemistry and Soil Science, Faculty of Agronomy at AU - Plovdiv. In 2012, successfully defended a dissertation and obtains a PhD in scientific specialty „Agrochemistry“, where he currently works as a teacher and researcher, and since 2013 has been the Ch. Assistant professor PhD in the same department.

She speaks English and French very well. Works with basic computer programs (Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, etc.) and statistical analysis programs.

All this gives me reason to assume that the candidate has good teaching and professional experience in connection with the announced competition.

2. General description of the scientific production

In the competition for "Associate Professor". Ch. Assist. Professor Nedyalka Yordanova PhD participates with a total production of 35 scientific works, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 35 issues, of which:
 - Publications related to the doctoral dissertation – 8 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
 - Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 10 issues.
 - Published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1 issue.
 - Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 7 issues;
 - Articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 9 issues

To prepare the opinion, 27 scientific papers are subject to analysis

The scientific works of Ch. Associate Professor Yordanova PhD were published mostly in scientific journals (77.8%) and 5 articles were in proceedings of scientific conferences abroad. The publications are in the journals: Scientific Papers Series A. Agronomy (7 issues), Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans (3 issues), Agronomy Research (2 issues), Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science (1 issue), KNOWLEDGE International Journal Scientific papers (2 issues), International Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry (1 issue), Plant Breeding Sciences (2 issues), Scientific works of Agrarian University-Plovdiv (2 issues) and Management & Sustainable Development: society, man, nature (1 issue).

The personal participation of Ch. assistant professor Yordanova PhD in the specified 27 scientific papers is as follows: 5 are independent (18.5%), first author in 5 (18.5%), second author in 8 (29.6%), and in the remaining 9 - is the third and next author.

An important point in the candidate's research activity is the interdisciplinary approach. She works in a team with specialists in various scientific fields, which makes research of higher scientific value. The publication activity of the candidate Ch. assistant professor Yordanova PhD, 81.5% of the articles are mainly in English and the remaining 18.5% of the scientific works are in Bulgarian

The results of her scientific production Ch. assistant professor Nedyalka Yordanova PhD, presents in two national and twelve international scientific forums, which contribute to the popularization of the results of his research activity, presented with 8 poster reports.

3. Teaching activity

Assistant Professor Dr. Nedyalka Yordanova is already an established lecturer at the Department of Agrochemistry and Soil Science at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, has more than 16 years of active teaching.

The applicant's study load report submitted for the last five years (2018-2023) shows that she has been engaged in 2500 teaching hours or an average of 500 hours for each academic year, of which 270 hours are lectures, 1847 hours are exercises and 387 hours extracurricular employment. She gives lectures, laboratory and practical exercises to agronomic personnel from Bachelor's, Master's in the disciplines: Agrochemistry; Ecology and environmental protection; Agronomy of the Tropics and Subtropics; Viticulture and Ornamental Horticulture and in the elective discipline "Soil Fertility and Fertilization" (Bachelor's) with students from the specialties Agronomy of the Tropics and Subtropics, Plant Protection and Agronomy.

The teaching activity of the candidate is complemented by the training of five successfully defended diplomas from the Bachelor's and two current ones from the specialty Agronomy-Field Breeding.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

The publications presented reflect the results of continuous scientific research work on current problems focused on fertilization. The research is related to establishing the effect of soil and foliar fertilization on growth, development, some physiological and biochemical parameters; the amount of yields and the quality of production in the main agricultural crops. The candidate has presented results related to the analysis and survey of the agrochemical and soil conditions of fields for the cultivation of perennial crops. The publications are well-formed, include an appropriate literary background, an in-depth analytical part and conclusions. An important aspect of its research activity is its practical orientation, the obtained results are the basis for determining fertilizer rates, optimizing fertilization schemes for these crops. I accept the author reference for the contributions. The scientific contributions are systematized in three directions, based on which 8 scientific-theoretical and 13 scientific-propositional contributions were formulated.

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Citing and abstracting scientific research

For the current competition Ch. Assist. Professor Yordanova has presented four citations to two of her scientific publications, three of which are in journals with impact rank/ SJR: Journal of Applied Phycology (Q2), The

Journal of Animal & Plant Sciences (Q3), Journal of Applied Sciences Research (Q4) and Scientific papers. Series A-Agronomy-Agronomy.

Participation in research projects

Ch. Assistant Professor Nedyalka Yordanova, PhD, has participated in a total of 17 competitively funded projects, of which: in one national project "Support for the development of young scientists and post-doctoral students in the scientific direction "Agricultural Sciences"; 3 internal scientific-research projects at the Central Scientific Research Institute at AU - Plovdiv and 12 implementation contract projects.

5. Remarks and recommendations

The remarks and recommendations to the candidate are to concentrate his publishing activity in scientific journals with impact factor; to popularize the results of his scientific developments in popular science articles, fertilization technologies, brochures to reach farmers. I have no serious remarks about the presented scientific production.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I consider that Assistant Professor Dr. Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova meets the requirements of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for Application of the Law of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for its application.

The presented scientific production meets the national scientometric requirements for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor". All this gives me reason to evaluate **POSITIVELY** his overall activity. I allow myself to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assistant Professor Dr. Nedyalka Nikolova Yordanova for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the scientific specialty Agrochemistry.

Date: 23. 10. 2023.

Plovdiv

PREPARED THE OPINION:

(Prof. Dr. Hriska Boteva)