



## OPINION

**About:** academic position “Associate Professor”, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Crop production, Scientific Specialty “Plant Biochemistry”, announced by the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the State Gazette issue 36 from 23.04.2024

**Applicant for the competition:** Chief Assistant Professor Adelina Slavova Harizanova, PhD

**Prepared by:** Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova, Agricultural University of Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education: 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine, Professional Field: 6.1. Crop production, Scientific Specialty “Crop production”, determined a member of the scientific jury, according to Order № RD 16-807/18.06.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University, Plovdiv.

### Brief presentation of the applicant

Adelina Slavova Harizanova was born in 1982, in Plovdiv city. During the period 2001-2006, she studied and graduated as a Bachelor and Master in "Plant Protection" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. From 2013 to 2016 she is a full-time doctoral student in the Department of "Plant Physiology" at the Agrarian University-Plovdiv, and in 2017 she defended her dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Plant Physiology". In 2017 the applicant was appointed as an assistant, and since 2018 to present she is the Chief Assistant in Biochemistry at the Faculty of Agronomy at AU-Plovdiv. Chief Assis. Prof. Adelina Harizanova has experience as a university lecturer in the discipline "Plant Biochemistry", giving lectures and exercises to Bulgarian and foreign students. Scientific research activity of the candidate is related to work on projects with internal and external funding. Dr. Adelina Harizanova is a member of the editorial board of the journal "Journal of Central European Agriculture". She has an excellent command of English and German and good level of Russian language.

### General description of the scientific production

Chief Assist. Prof. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD participates in the competition for an Associate Professor with a total research output of 40 publications, grouped as follows: - *Scientific publications in the scientific specialty – 40 papers, of which:*

\* *Publications related to the PhD Thesis – 5 which are not subject to review.*

\* *Publications in refereed indexed publications in world renowned databases with scientific information – 10 issues (indicator B4). Eight of the papers in this group are published in journal with Quartile Q4, which is indexed in Web of Science (Core Collection) and two in journals (B4-1, Q2 - SJR 0.45, IF 1.2 and B4-2, Q3 - SJR 0.28) referenced in Scopus. The total number of points for the evaluation of that category of publications is 146 (100 points required), i.e. exceeding the minimum required for taking the academic position of “Associate Professor”.*

\* *Published book based on a protected dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 1 issue (indicator G 6 – 40 points).*

\* *Papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases – 10 issues (indicator G 7 – 142.2 points). Five of the papers*

in this group are indexed in Web of Science (Core Collection), three in Scopus (№4- Q1 SJR 0.9 IF 5.9; №7-Q4 SJR 0.2 IF 0.7 и №9- Q4 SJR 0.18), and two - Web of science All databases.

\* *Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes – 12 issues* (indicator G 8 – 52.83 points).

\* *Studies in refereed indexed publications in world renowned databases with scientific information – 2 issues* (indicator G9) and corresponding to 67.5 points.

The total number of points required according to index G is 200, while the applicant has 302,83 points and exceeding more than 50 % the minimal requirements according to this index.

Papers are published in the following journals:

Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy – 12 issues, Journal of Central European Agriculture – 2 issues, Agricultural sciences – 2 issues, Scientific Papers. Series B. Horticulture - 1 issue, Scientific work - Agriculture University-Plovdiv – 1 issue, China-Bulgaria Rural Revitalization Development Cooperation Forum - 1 issue, Agronomy Research – 1 issue, Industrial Crops and Products – 1 issue, Acta Agrobotanica – 1 issue, Co-Evolution of Secondary Metabolites – 1 issue, Turkish Journal of Agricultural and Natural Sciences – 1 issue, Plant protection & seeds and fertilizers – 10 issues.

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Dr. Adelina Slavova Harizanova in the above 35 research papers is illustrated by the fact that 2 papers (5.8 %) are single-author, in 11 papers (31.4 %) she is first author, in 17 (48.5 %) – second author, and in the remaining 5 she is third and fourth author (14.3 %). This allows me to consider the applicant generator of scientific ideas in 37.2 % of the presented papers.

*35 scientific publications in the scientific specialty are taken into consideration in preparing the statement.*

### **Teaching activity**

Chief Assist. Prof. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD has 7 years and 1 month of teaching experience, entirely in the Department of "Plant Physiology" at Agricultural University, Plovdiv. During this period, he conducted exercises and lectures to full-time and part-time students from Bachelor and Master degrees.

For the past five years (2018-2023), she has lead a total of 2548,75 hours.

The teaching activity is complemented by the fact that under her scientific guidance, 2 Bachelor's and 3 Master's students are successfully graduated.

### **Research activity**

#### *Areas of publication*

The scientific research activity of Chief Assist. Prof. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD, is directed in the following directions:

Studies related to the influence of silicon in vegetable crops.

Evaluation of the effect of the application of a biostimulant in conditions of stress caused by the action of low positive temperatures in young cucumber plants.

Studies related to the impact of microalgae application on barley plants grown on contaminated soils

Studies to establish the effect of the application of biostimulants on the quantity and quality of alfalfa production

Research related to influence of the predecessor and nitrogen fertilization levels on productivity elements, yield and essential oil content of coriander seeds.

The studies are methodologically properly conducted, and experimental results from them were thoroughly discussed. Original scientific-applied contributions have been formulated, they accurately reflect the results of the studies carried out and I fully accept the candidate report prepared.

#### *Author Citations*

The positive assessment of the work of Chief Assistant Dr. Adelina Slavova Harizanova is further complemented by the noticed citations of her publications by other authors. They are a scientometric indicator of minimal requirements corresponding to the sum of 50 points. All citations in the world known research databases Scopus and Web of Science are presented, they alone contributing 120 points, exceeding more than two times the minimal requirements according to this index. The significance of the citations is also determined by the fact that are in journals with Quartile - Q1, SJR( from 0,69 to 2,13) and IF (from 3,2 to 7,6). The sum of the impact factor of citations is 38.9, which is also confirmed by the candidate's h-index – 3 in Scopus.

#### *Participation in projects*

Although that for the projects are not required for the award of the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assist. Prof. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD has involved in 4 scientific, projects. 2 of them are implementers and one scientific-researcher at AU-Plovdiv. The candidate participates in one international project at the Bulgarian National Science Fund.

#### **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of the applicant's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I believe that Chief Assist. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for Application of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented materials are enough in volume and meet the minimum scientific metrical requirements for occupying the academic position. Her research is up-to-date and the results enable the applicant to present a significant number of research and applied contributions and achievements in the field of the biochemistry.

That is the reason for me to give a **POSITIVE** evaluation of her overall research activity.

I allow myself to propose to the Honorable Scientific Board to vote positive and to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University to elect Chief Assist. Prof. Adelina Slavova Harizanova PhD as „**Associate Professor**“ in the scientific specialty “Plant Biochemistry”.

Date: 22.07.2024  
Plovdiv

**PREPARED**  
**STATEMENT:**.....  
(Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova)