



OPINION

on dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "**doctor**" in: field of higher education: 3. Social, business and legal sciences, professional field: 3.8. Economics, specialty: **Organization and management of production**

Author of the dissertation: VALENTINA PANTEVA AGAPIEVA-ALLIOSMAN, PhD student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Faculty of Economics, Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Thesis topic: "ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF BIOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE IN BULGARIA "

Reviewer: Assoc. prof. VALENTINA LYUBENOVA NIKOLOVA-ALEKSIEVA, PhD University of Food Technology-Plovdiv, Higher Education Area: 3. Social, Business and Legal Sciences, professional field: 3.8 Economics, specialty: "Economics and Management", nominated as a member of the scientific jury with order No. RD-16-1283 / 20.11.2019 from the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

1. Relevance of the problem

The relevance of the dissertation presented is the consideration of ways to achieve sustainable development through strategic development and efficient management of organic production, a sector that is developing at a rapid pace not only in the world and in Europe, but also in Bulgaria, as part of the global market economy. The dissertation examines and offers practically significant directions and recommendations for the future solving of the identified problems and increasing the economic efficiency of the organic production of agricultural production in the conditions of globalization, dynamic and constantly changing social, economic and market environment. Determining the directions for the development of organic agriculture, depending on its specific features and advantages, is related to the need for permanent management of organizational and economic problems through the use of available resources to achieve sustainable development.

This creates an increasing need for research in the field of organic production and the implementation of good practices in order to solve the emerging organizational and economic problems and increase its competitiveness.

In this connection it can be concluded that the topic of the dissertation was *successfully selected. It is extremely up-to-date, dissertable and of great practical importance.*

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of research

The relevance and importance of the studied issues are successfully argued in the introduction of the dissertation. The research thesis is formulated, which is proven during the research. The purpose and the related 4 tasks, as well as the object and object of the development, are correctly defined.

The methodology and research tools chosen are consistent with the complex, multidimensional nature of the study.

Various statistical and economic methods were applied in the course of the study to study the economic efficiency of organic agricultural production, such as: comparative method, methods of analysis and synthesis, monographic method, method of statistical groupings, balance method, method of establishing the complex influence of several factors, SWOT-analysis, TOWS-analysis; questionnaire survey to obtain direct information, economic and index factorial analysis methods, trend-based forecasting method, Case Study Approach, calculation-constructive method, study by the method of expert evaluation, method of snapshot, statistical methods Chi-square, T-test, F-test, Correlation and ANOVA, grouping method, descriptive method, etc.

The use of quantitative and qualitative methods, sample surveys and in-depth interviews makes an excellent impression.

In interpreting the data, the doctoral student is based on data from various literary sources and the Internet. The review of the specialized literature also includes numerous publications by national and foreign authors. The analyzed literature also covers a wide range of sources such as - normative acts, reports of state agencies and institutions, reports, publications and opinions of non-governmental organizations, articles and press comments, etc. All this ensures the successful carrying out of the research and the achievement of the aforementioned results related to the opening of roads and the possibilities for improving the management of organic agriculture.

3. Visualization and presentation of the results obtained

The dissertation submitted is in volume of **220 pages**. Structurally, it includes an introduction, **4 chapters**, a conclusion and **5 annexes**. The results are obtained through a modern toolkit and are illustrated with **11 snapshots**, **1 diagram** and **37 tables**, which proves the qualities of a doctoral student as a very good researcher.

The structure of the dissertation research is *logically constructed* and *corresponds to* the set goal and tasks. The work contains concrete results and empirical evidence that objectively reflects the real achievements of the research.

4. Discussion of the results and the literature used

The dissertation analyzes the contemporary scientific achievements in the field of sustainable development and strategic management of organic production. The bibliographic reference includes a total of **308 sources**, of which **143 are in Cyrillic**, **85 are in Latin** and **80 are Internet sources**. The mentioned literature sources are relevant and directly related to the topic of the dissertation.

The systematizations and summaries made show a thorough and conscientious work with literary sources, skills for applying analytical and deductive techniques for processing a *considerable amount of information with various research methodologies*.

The dissertation presents clearly and clearly the concrete results of the research done. The doctoral student analyzes and evaluates the organizational and economic problems of organic farming and, applying an interdisciplinary approach, proposes specific solutions and guidelines for improving organic production throughout the country.

The main data and information used in the process of analyzing and evaluating the feasibility of the approaches developed, the statistical and economic methods are presented in the 5 annexes.

With complete conviction, I can confirm that the doctoral student has a thorough theoretical *and methodological preparation and skills for independent research work*.

5. Contributions to the thesis

The contributions can be divided into scientific and applied scientific ones.

Scientific contributions may include in-depth theoretical and empirical analysis of the state and development of organic farming worldwide and in Bulgaria; the developed methodology for evaluation and analysis of economic indicators, in accordance with the objectives of the research on organic farms; the assessment of the factors affecting the state and development of organic farming, as well as the comprehensive assessment of the cost-effectiveness indicators of organic farms.

Applied scientific contributions include:

- the proposed organizational, strategic guidelines and recommendations for solving a number of identified organizational-economic challenges in organic farming in Bulgaria.
- specific paths have been identified to increase the profitability and competitiveness of organic production.
- innovative methods and environmentally friendly production practices for integration in organic farming have been systematized, which are a prerequisite for the sustainable development of rural areas;

I accept the contributions as real, credible and proven in my dissertation research.

6. Critical notes and questions

The dissertation presented is a complete, completed research, with indisputable contributions and qualities, to which I have no serious critical comments, but I allow myself to ask **two questions**:

First question: "Given the global trends in the development of organic agriculture, what are the competitive advantages of Bulgarian organic farming?"

Second question: "To what extent does the location factor affect the profitability of organic farming?"

7. Published articles and citations

A total of 7 publications for the 2014 -2015 period were presented on dissertation work. Five of them were presented at international scientific conferences in Bulgaria and the rest at international scientific forums in Romania.

The doctoral student's balance in her tendency for team and individual work makes an impression. Proof of my assertion is the 4 scientific publications she has co-authored and 3 independent papers.

The aforementioned publications reflect to a great extent the main achievements of the dissertation.

The publications presented here show that, according to the national minimum requirements for obtaining a Doctoral degree, the author achieved 71,67 points, which is proof that it not only achieved the required number of scientometric points, but also significantly exceeded them.

The abstract is presented in the established form and content. It summarizes the main results of the research and gives the necessary idea of the theoretical and applied achievements of the author.

CONCLUSION:

Given the merits of the thesis, the relevance and complexity of the problems studied, the need to find effective solutions for them in practice, the good theoretical level of the researched and analyzed problems, it can be summarized that the presented dissertation meets the normatively set criteria for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" / Academic Staff Development Act, Art. 6, para 2 and para 3 and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its implementation /.

The aforementioned results of the study on "**Organizational and Economic Problems of Organic Farming in Bulgaria**" provide sufficient grounds for a **HIGH EVALUATION** of the scientific potential and research activity of the doctoral student.

All this allows me to confidently vote **POSITIVE** for the award of **Valentina Panteva Agapieva-Alliosman** to the doctoral degree in professional field 3.8. Economics, specialty: Production organization and management.

Date: 05.12 .2019 г
Plovdiv city

**AUTHOR OF
THE OPINION:** Sgn

(Assoc. Prof. V. Nikolova-Alexieva, PhD)