



SCIENTIFIC OPINION

on dissertation for obtaining the Doctorate degree in higher education: 3. Social, Business and Legal Sciences, Professional field: 3.8 Economics, Scientific specialty: 'Production Organization and Management'

Author of the dissertation: **Izet Hamez Hoti**, part-time doctoral student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Doctoral Thesis topic: **Strategical management for energy production from agricultural products.**

Reviewer: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Dinkova Dirimanova**, Agricultural University, 3. Social, Business and Legal Sciences; professional direction 3.7 Administration and management, scientific specialty Organization and management of production, appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order No. RD-16-15/14.01.2020 from the Rector of the Agricultural University, Plovdiv.

1. The relevance of the topic under consideration

Izet Hamez Hoti was born on 14.11.1960. He graduated with a major in Industrial Energy from the Faculty of Electronics and Computer Engineering at University of Pristina, Republic of Kosovo. He completed his master's degree in Information Management at the University of ILIRIA, Pristina in 2016. Currently, he works as an expert in the energy sector in Pristina. He is fluent in English and Serbian. Izet Hoti has been appointed as a part-time doctoral student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv.

2. Actuality of the problem

The topic of the dissertation is to analyze and evaluate the numerous impacts that result from the use of biomass. In this work, the author focuses his research on crop biomass production for energy generation as well as cogeneration in Kosovo.

The dissertation deals with issues and results related to the production of biomass energy and government subsidies for its processing. First of all, this study focuses on exploring the production of energy for heating, but also on other ways of treating different types of biomass, such as: production of electricity in biomass processing plants or biogas production. With respect to the strategic and long-term effects of the entire Kosovo economy on biomass processing, the following contributions have been made: biomass price stability, which is a prerequisite for a stable income for farmers, security of supply, independence from fuel imports, and benefits for environment, such as reducing greenhouse effects. In this sense, the current topic is important for the developing economy of the country, Kosovo and in particular for the use of biomass for the energy sector.

3. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of research

The purpose of the dissertation is clearly stated and refers to the processes of strategic management of energy production from agricultural products in Kosovo. The achievement of the goal is accomplished by solving several clearly identified tasks that are realistically feasible, but not fully protected in the dissertation.

The PhD student has formulated a thesis that demonstrates that applying a strategic approach to the management of energy from agricultural products is a prerequisite for improving the quality of the environment. This is achieved by carrying out an analysis of the energy potential of the agricultural sector and designing a strategy for the processing of waste from the agricultural sector. In addition to his main thesis, the doctoral student has developed three work sub-theses, which he examines and analyses in his work.

Appropriate methods of analysis have been used in the study, which have been properly selected and applied. The systematic approach, retrospective analysis, situational analysis, comparative analysis, statistical methods, diagnostic analysis and prognostic analysis were used in the study of the problem.

4. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results

The doctoral student has used various means to illustrate and summarize the results obtained through figures, tables and diagrams that allow him to correctly systematize and objectively present the obtained results.

5. Discussion of the results and the references

In his dissertation work, the PhD student has researched much of the contemporary specialized scientific literature in relation to the theory of strategic management, biomass production for energy and processing of agricultural products for the energy sector.

In the dissertation, the doctoral candidate examines in depth the need for energy production for heating and the ways of treating different types of biomass for this type of production, as well as the consequences of this production for the whole economy.

The literature used includes 85 literary sources, mainly in Albanian, Serbian and English titles.

6. Contributions to the Dissertation

The thesis "Strategic management of energy production from agricultural products" contains the following essential contributions, ideas and solutions:

Scientific contribution

- Strategies existing in theory and practice have been adapted to the specific business conditions in Kosovo, which is a basic prerequisite for the successful implementation of strategic approaches in the management of energy from agricultural products.

- The methodological approach used thoroughly analyzes the ways and consequences of biomass use in the energy sector and the benefits for farmers.

Scientific and applied contributions

- An analysis of the main risks associated with the production of energy from agricultural products, as well as a detailed analysis of the costs and benefits of this type of production in Kosovo.
- A project on waste energy production in Kosovo is analysed.

7. Critical notes and matters

The methodical part is not very well reasoned in the study itself. The literature is extensive but not well analysed and summarized in the theoretical section. It would be good if each chapter concludes with conclusions - this would help to develop the final part of the thesis. Notwithstanding these critical remarks, the dissertation has its merits. My recommendation to the doctoral candidate is to carry out a comparative study related to the production of energy from agricultural products in several countries in the Balkan region. This will deepen its scientific activity.

8. Published articles and citations

On the topic of the dissertation, the doctoral student has published four articles, which is the minimum required for obtaining a doctoral degree.

The abstract presented objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation.

CONCLUSION:

On the basis of the various methods of research learned and applied by the doctoral candidate, the correctly performed experiments, the summaries made and the conclusions drawn, I believe that the dissertation submitted meets the requirements of the Application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me a reason to rate it **POSITIVE**.

I allow myself to propose to the venerable Scientific Jury also to vote positively and to award to **Izet Hamez Hoti** the educational and scientific degree '**Doctor**' in the scientific specialty: 'Production Organization and Management'.

Date: 23.1.2020 г.
Plovdiv

SCIENTIFIC OPINION BY:
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. *Violeta Dirimanova*)