



SCIENTIFIC OPINION

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in: field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 economics, the scientific specialty Organization and Management (agriculture and sub-sectors).

Author of the dissertation: Nikolay Ivanov Stefanov, PhD student in self-study at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation: "Impact of the CAP on the competitiveness of small farms".

Reviewer: Associate Professor Dr. Georgi Petrov Georgiev, Higher School of Agribusiness and Regional Development; 3.Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, the scientific specialty "Finance, money circulation, credit and insurance", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by order № RD-16-133 / 24.02. 2021 by the Rector of AU.

1. Relevance of the problem.

The topic of increasing the competitiveness of small farms through the implementation of an appropriate common agricultural policy is undoubtedly a topical issue, which in recent years has increased its importance, both for our country and globally. In addition, by increasing the competitiveness of small farms can increase employment and achieve many side effects in rural areas of the country such as the development of related industries, increasing incomes, reducing the risk of agricultural activity, raising the skills of the workforce through acquisition of experience and knowledge, implementation of innovations in production, etc.

In this sense, I find the topic dissertable and relevant.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

The doctoral student has formulated precisely and objectively the research goal, tasks and conceptual thesis of the dissertation.

The research methodology used in the dissertation is diverse and includes: SWOT analysis, regression analysis, systematic and graphical analysis,, multicriteria expert evaluations, focus group method, survey, etc. It is fully consistent with the possibilities for proof of the formulated conceptual thesis and sub-theses.

3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.

The dissertation is structurally composed of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and an appendix. In this respect, the presentation has a well-balanced structure and there are no structural disparities and deviations from the established standards. The dissertation is developed in a volume of 166 pages, of which 156 are the main text. The study is illustrated with 22 figures, 16 tables and 5 diagrams.

Compared to other dissertations, a positive impression is made by the fact that the descriptive style does not prevail in the presentation, but the analytical presentation of the

information dominates as the author's conclusions are supported by statistical facts and empirical data.

4. Discussion of the results and used literature.

The main results of the study are related to measuring the impact of the CAP on the profitability and competitiveness of small agricultural enterprises and identifying the needs of small agricultural holdings in the context of future common agricultural policy.

The presented dissertation is a complete, in-depth monographic study of the possibilities for the common agricultural policy in our country to create conditions for increasing the competitiveness of small farms. To achieve this goal, the doctoral student has conducted a significant bibliographic review of theoretical and research publications. A list of used literature sources includes a total of 129 publications, of which 60 are in Bulgarian and 69 in English.

5. Contributions to the dissertation.

At the end of the abstract, doctoral student Nikolay Stefanov has attached a reference in which he synthesizes the results of his dissertation to four findings with the nature of scientific and scientific - applied contributions. In my expert opinion, they can be synthesized up to three.

Scientific and applied contributions

- The nature of small farms in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been clarified;
- The influence of the CAP on the profitability and competitiveness of small agricultural enterprises has been established;
- The needs of small farms under the CAP have been identified.

I accept the contributions referred to above as reliable, real and proven in the dissertation.

6. Critical remarks and questions.

The formulas used is scarce. There is a lack of mathematical modeling or in-depth empirical research with appropriate econometric / statistical methodology. The survey is not a preferred method of research in the economic field, due to the fact that the data of the categorical type predominate, which implies a lower degree of accuracy. R square in Bulgarian is translated as coefficient of determination, not coefficient of definition. From the correlogram of scheme 6 of the dissertation it is evident that the observed dependence is not linear, ie. should not use simple linear regression.

What is the economic meaning of the calculated values of the "Adjusted R Square" indicator used in Table 15?

What modern methods can be used to accurately, quantitatively measure the business risk that a farm takes?

7. Published articles and citations.

A total of 3 publications from the past 2020 have been presented. All of them are electronic editions and have been published in Bulgaria.

From the documentation submitted to the competition it is evident that the doctoral student Nikolay Stefanov meets the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor".

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

CONCLUSION:

Based on the different research methods learned and applied by the doctoral student, the correctly performed experiments, the summaries and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVE.

I allow myself to suggest to the esteemed scientific jury to vote in favor and sentences of Nikolai Ivanov Stefanov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Organization and management "(agriculture and sub-sectors).



Date:05.04.2021
Plovdiv

MANUFACTURED

OPINION:
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. G. Georgiev)