



OPINION

on a dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in: field of higher education 3.0 Social, economic and legal sciences, professional field 3.8 Economics, scientific specialty - "Organization and management of production".

Author of the dissertation: Hayk Takvor Garabedyan - PhD student at the Department of Management and Marketing, at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Dissertation topic: The impact of the common agricultural policy for management and development of the beekeeping sector in Bulgaria

Resigned by: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Dimitrov Petrov - University of National and World Economy (UNWE), specialty National Economy (Geoeconomics and Regional Development),

Appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD-16-99. / 11. 02. 2022. year from the Rector of A U -Plovdiv

1. Relevance of the problem.

The topic is relevant due to the fact that the industry related to the development of beekeeping is defined as one of the few in which there is a large number of young entrepreneurs and start-ups. In addition, Bulgaria has become one of the leaders in the production and export of honey as an EU member. At the same time, the industry has many problems that are a prerequisite for scientific research and offering solutions for the development of beekeeping in Bulgaria. The issue of the declining population of bees remains open, as well as the search for effective ways for sustainable development of beekeeping in Bulgaria.

2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.

The aim of the dissertation research is to analyze the role of the CAP in the management and development of the beekeeping sector. It is important to note that the author accepts that the conditions for the management and development of the beekeeping sector are influenced by the established framework of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which outlines the competitive environment. There are 5 tasks, which in practice complement the purpose and framework of the study. The object of research is the beekeeping sector both at the macro and at the farm level. The author has made the restriction that a beekeeping farm is a farm in which at least 50% of the

monetary income from its activity is generated as a result of the production of honey and bee products. The subject of research is the influence of the CAP on the development of beekeeping in the Republic of Bulgaria. To prove the conceptual thesis in the research process, the classical methods were used as a systematic analysis; index method; statistical methods - descriptive statistics, t-test, one-way analysis of variance, chi-square analysis and the method of multiple comparisons. The specialized software product SPSS and statistical package of MS Excel were used in the analysis of the empirical information.

3. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.

The dissertation is presented in an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, located on 131 pages, used literature and appendices. The study is illustrated with 38 figures and 2 tables. The problems of beekeepers from Bulgaria and the EU, who face many challenges in order to preserve their beehives and maintain honey production, are outlined. Rising costs, fierce competition in the form of cheap honey imported from third countries, losses of bee colonies, diseases, aggressors in beehives, combined with the deteriorating environment for fodder crops, are factors that put pressure on the sector, the identified problems. Another major problem is the various diseases of bees. In 2016, an opinion prepared by the Center for Risk Assessment reflected that nosematosis, along with varroosis, are the most serious health problems for beekeeping in Bulgaria. Derived in the appropriate logical sequence of the process of planning, implementation and evaluation of the intervention policy, consisting of a series of activities and measures. A qualitative analysis of the measures in the industry has been made. A methodological approach for analysis and assessment of the impact of the CAP on the industry is illustrated. The methodology for assessing the impact of the CAP on the development of the beekeeping industry is presented. The results are derived through the methodology for organizing the survey and SWOT-analysis, where the survey data are presented. An analysis of the production and trade of honey was made in a separate chapter of the study, in the next chapter the profile of barriers to beekeeping is presented in order to improve the application of the CAP. Emphasis is placed on identifying critical development factors. An important aspect of the study is the strategic orientation of beekeeping farms. The conclusion summarizes in a synthesized form the implementation of the research tasks. In practice, it has been found that the future development of beekeeping farms cannot take place without the active financial support of the CAP. This support is necessary due to the fact that these farms are the backbone of rural economic development. Farmers have a strong motivation to develop their farms, which is determined by the desire to ensure a better way of life.

4. Discussion of the results and used literature.

The proposed dissertation shows that the author has reached the expected results and has made contributions in both scientific and scientific applied aspect. The assessment I can give here is that the research was carried out in accordance with the set object, subject, tasks and restrictions. The scientific literature related to the topic of the dissertation is at the required decent level. It has been reviewed by many authors both in Bulgaria and abroad. This can be seen from the literature used by the dissertation. The doctoral student used 109 literary sources, of which 23 were

Bulgarian and 86 as foreign (in English), which means that the doctoral student covered not only the main Bulgarian authors who have contributed to the field, but also sufficiently considered the issue in international scale. The 109 literature sources used and the footnotes made speak not only about the dissertation's awareness of the issues discussed in the dissertation, but also about the critical attitude towards them and its competence.

5. Contributions to the dissertation.

The following contributing moments can be highlighted in the dissertation. First of all, the nature of beekeeping in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is clarified. Next is the vision of the essence of CAP support for the development of the beekeeping sector. Thirdly, an objective methodology for analysis and assessment of the impact of the CAP on the development of beekeeping is presented. Fourth, the role and influence of the CAP on the development of beekeeping farms as well as on the sector is illustrated. Fifth, but essential, the needs of beekeeping under the CAP have been identified as a contribution. The proposed dissertation shows that the author has reached the expected results and has made contributions in both scientific and scientifically applied aspects. I confirm the contributions listed in the abstract.

6. Critical remarks and questions.

In the dissertation I have not found significant omissions, inaccuracies or contradictions and I have no significant critical remarks. Here I would like to make a recommendation to the dissertation Garabedian, to supplement and refine the strategic module of his dissertation with methods of strength and risk analysis applicable to strategic options, and to present criteria for choosing a strategic option for beekeeping, be faced with a crisis or deteriorating economic situation. I recommend the dissertation to continue his research in this field, because in general such research is not common in the field of beekeeping. These recommendations do not detract from the presented dissertation. They would contribute to its higher scientific value and practical applicability. Finally, I would like to hear the doctoral student's opinion on the following question: "In which geographical regions of Bulgaria beekeeping can further develop its potential in the context of reducing the impact of plant protection measures in agriculture?"

7. Published articles and citations.

The publications presented by the doctoral student are author's, as well as co-authored and are in the field of research. I have no information about claims made by other authors against the doctoral student for plagiarism, both in the publications and in the research work.

The presented abstract objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation. The abstract proposed for opinion has been developed in accordance with the norms of the law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation, fully meeting the requirements for content and layout.

CONCLUSION:

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

I would like to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively and to award HAIK TAKVOR GARABEDYAN the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production".

Date: 08.03.2022
Sofia

MANUFACTURED
OPINION:


(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kamen Petrov)