



REVIEW

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 Garabedian

Full-time PhD student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Topic of the dissertation: The Impact of the Common Agricultural Policy for Management and Development of the Beekeeping Sector in Bulgaria

Reviewer: Associate Professor Doctor of Science Petar Borisov Borisov - Agricultural University - Plovdiv,

appointed a member of the scientific jury by order № RD-16-99 / 11.02.2022 by the Rector of AU.

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Hayk Takvor Garabedian was born on March 17, 1981. In 2005 he received a bachelor's degree in economics and international relations from Lake Forest University - USA and graduated with honors. In 2010 he obtained his first master's degree in business administration from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and in 2011 the second master's degree in business administration (again) from "City University of Seattle" - USA. Since 2019 he has been a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the University of Plovdiv. Along with gaining various degrees, Hayk Garabedian worked and developed his career in leading companies in the United States.

2. Relevance of the problem.

In recent years, beekeeping in our country has become an export-oriented sector in which significant investments have been made and young farmers have been attracted who are open to the use of innovative approaches to the development of the beekeeping business. Today Bulgaria is one of the main producers and exporters of honey and bee products within the EU. Undoubtedly, this has been achieved through the active role of the CAP and any future change in this policy will directly affect the structure and dynamics of the sector. Therefore, I believe that the dissertation research is relevant and of interest to the scientific community.

3. 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. Achieving the goal is

sought by solving the following research tasks:

- Clarification of the nature of beekeeping as an object of CAP influence;
- Clarification of the financial instruments of the CAP to support beekeeping as a business model for the implementation of investments;
- Establishing the state and development trends of the beekeeping sector in the context of the CAP;
- Evaluation and analysis of the sector before and after the CAP programs for the period 2007-2020;
- Defining recommendations for improving the CAP for the new programming period.

Thus defined scientific tasks allow the content to present the research idea of the author, as well as the achievement of the research goal.

The main thesis defended is that the management and development of the beekeeping sector is influenced by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in order to achieve sectoral competitiveness, this policy needs to create a competitive environment.

In assessing the impact of the CAP on the research sector, the doctoral student uses the following approaches:

- System approach. In the study, the economy of the sector is perceived as a production and economic system.
- Expert approach. In the analysis and assessment of the processes taking place in the sector, the approach of the expert assessment is applied in the stages when official information about the condition of the site cannot be obtained.

To prove the conceptual thesis in the research process the doctoral student uses the following methods: systematic analysis; index method; statistical methods - descriptive statistics, and chi square analysis and the method of expert evaluation.

4. Visualization and presentation of the obtained results.

In the dissertation the results of the conducted field research as well as the analysis of these results are illustrated with 38 figures and 2 tables.

The dissertation is presented in an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, located on 131 pages and used literature. The structure presented in this way allows the reviewer to quickly find out about the nature of the logical framework that is used in the implementation of the dissertation research.

The first chapter of the dissertation presents the peculiarities of beekeeping in Bulgaria as well as the specific instruments for CAP intervention, which regulate the development of the sector. A substantiated methodological approach for conducting the research is presented.

The second chapter analyzes the state of the sector in recent years and analyzes the dynamics of production, exports, imports and competitive advantages of the sector. An assessment of the achieved effects of the application of the CAP on the development of beekeeping has been made. The needs of the farms in the conditions of the CAP have been identified. As a result of the analysis, the main conclusions regarding the state of the sector are derived and systematized.

The third chapter presents the results of the survey surveyed and conducted focus groups, which aimed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, as well as opportunities and threats to its future development in the CAP. Critical factors for competitive development have been identified through a number of expert assessments. In conclusion to this chapter, the doctoral student has shown what should be the strategic direction for the development of beekeeping in our country.

5. Discussion of the results and used literature.

The literature review is presented in the first chapter of the dissertation. The doctoral student has used and cited 109 literary sources of Bulgarian and foreign authors. Through a systematic exposition of hypotheses and ideas of these authors, Hayk Garabedian has built a science-based production for his research. All this proves that the doctoral student knows the research problem and can apply in his future research the lessons learned in the doctoral program.

6. Contributions to the dissertation.

In the dissertation work a total of 6 contributions stand out as follows:

- The nature of beekeeping in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been clarified;
- The essence of the CAP support for the development of the beekeeping sector has been clarified;
- An objective methodology for analysis and assessment of the impact of the CAP on the development of beekeeping farms has been developed.
- The influence of the CAP on the development of beekeeping farms as well as on the sector has been established;
- The needs of beekeeping farms in the conditions of the CAP have been identified;
- The strategic orientation in the development of the sector in the future.

Scientific contributions

I define the following as scientific contributions:

- The nature of beekeeping in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been clarified;
- The essence of the CAP's support for the development of the beekeeping sector has been clarified
- Developed a methodology for analysis and assessment of the impact of the CAP on the development of beekeeping farms.

Scientific and applied contributions

- The assessment of the impact of the CAP on the development of beekeeping farms as well as on the sector;
- The strategic orientation in the future development of the sector under the influence of the CAP

7. Critical remarks and questions.

In the dissertation submitted for review, no significant ambiguities are observed regarding the conducted research. The comprehension of the presented results of the survey can be facilitated by giving the used questionnaire in an appendix. In this way, the reviewer is able to gain a better idea of the data collected and the results obtained.

I have a question for the PhD student and he is the following:

- Which bee products have high added value and what role can they play in achieving a competitive position of beekeeping on the international market?

8. Published articles and citations.

The doctoral student has submitted a total of 4 articles for review. Of these articles, I find that 2 are closely related to the topic of the dissertation.

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

CONCLUSION:

I believe that the presented dissertation meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application. In addition, I declare that the presented dissertation is a personal work of the author, which objectively reflects the state of the researched problem, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVELY.

As Chairman of the Scientific Jury, I take the liberty of proposing to the Honorable Scientific Jury to vote in favor and award Hayk Takvor Garabedian the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty

- "Organization and management of production"

Date: 18.03.2022

Plovdiv

REVIEWER:
(Assoc. Prof. Petar Borisov)