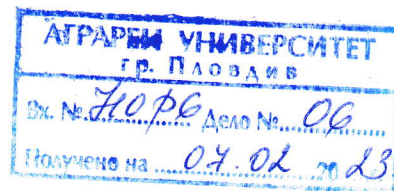


STATEMENT



on the dissertation for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science in the professional field 3.8 Economics, in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production (by branches and sub-sectors)"

Author of the thesis. She is a graduate student at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Plovdiv.

Dissertation topic: the **role of the CAP in promoting the innovation process in agriculture**

Reason for submitting the opinion: participation of **Prof. Dr. Kamen Dimitrov Petrov** in the composition of the scientific jury for the defense of the dissertation according to the Order RD-1-1313/19.12.2022 of the Rector of Agricultural University - Plovdiv.

1. Relevance of the problem

A number of advantages can be outlined in the dissertation, which are of a scientific and applied nature. It is relevant due to the emerging constant need for investment in agriculture and the enforcement of the Common Agricultural Policy in Bulgaria. In this direction, the work is relevant and important for the logical imposition of European terminology and dissertation approach on the basis of which all the analyses and studies dedicated to the Common Agricultural Policy, and especially innovation, were subsequently made. The dissertation is structured in the following sections - introduction, statement in three chapters, conclusion with recommendations, literature used and annexes. In the introduction, PhD student Aliyeva-Veli has presented her motives for choosing the topic of her dissertation and has outlined the main arguments that defend the originality and relevance of the chosen topic. The chosen topic, corresponds to the specialization of the department and I believe that the departmental council has been placed in a condition allowing it to objectively evaluate the dissertation. I agree with the reasons thus given for the relevance of the topic and believe that the dissertation covers important elements for investment in innovation in agriculture and the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. In conclusion, we accept that the topic is relevant and dissertationable.

2. Aim, hypothesis and research methods

In this dissertation, the reasons for the choice of the topic, as well as the arguments that defend the necessity and relevance of the dissertation research are presented in the appropriate sequence. A brief summary of the highlights of the EU and Bulgarian policies regarding agricultural development and innovation in the sector is presented. The main thesis of the dissertation is presented, the object, subject and purpose of the research are properly formulated and feasible. I also accept that the main tasks are correctly formulated and practically solved by achieving the aim of the dissertation research. The approaches and methods used to collect, synthesize and analyze the information for the purpose of the research are indicated in broad strokes. The main sources of information are indicated as well as the methods for its objective collection and systematization is properly set. In this part of the research dissertant Aliyeva-Veli could try to assume that the lack of innovation in agriculture can negatively affect its development, of course argued by her experience and practice, and setting the right hypothesis.

The methodology is the standard and applicable for such studies. In summary, I accept this part of the study is properly positioned and structured at a good research level.

3. Illustration and presentation of the results

I believe that the author has managed to construct a complete logical framework for her dissertation. She has achieved both a good balance in the three main chapters and has successfully focused the presented scientific text in the field of its applicability to the environment and processes facing agriculture and the need for innovation in it. The dissertation is constructed according to all formal requirements and scientific standards, including: an introduction; lists of abbreviations and abbreviations used, tables, figures and diagrams; three main chapters; a conclusion and scientific and applied contributions; a bibliographical reference and appendices. A number of tables and figures provide a good visualisation of the main scientific text, and the appendices undoubtedly reinforce its content and highlight the author's approach to the chosen topic. Undoubtedly, the topic chosen by the author and her supervisor is of great relevance, not only in terms of theory, but also in the context of effective management of the process of transformation of the economy and society in rural areas of Bulgaria, as well as the evaluation and analysis of the investment process.

4. Discussion of results and literature used

I consider the dissertation submitted for opinion in an original and complete scientific study. In this research I find scientific and scientific-applied contributions, the result of the doctoral student's research activity. The literature analysis performed, the research methodology defined, the research carried out as well as the conclusions and recommendations formulated, I consider to be the work of the doctoral student and his supervisor. All these elements are clearly distinguishable in the dissertation and can be accepted as contributions to the work of the doctoral student.

5. Contributions of the dissertation

The work of the candidate for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education and Science (Ed.D.) Atije Aliyeva-Veli is distinguished by purposefulness and consistency. I believe that in the field of theory, the author has also achieved the following contributions:

1. Proven theoretical and methodological approaches in the field of innovation in agriculture are presented with the potential to be adapted to the specific conditions of rural development in Bulgaria in the context of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy;
2. The paper analyses the main definitions and criteria for measuring the effectiveness in providing opportunities for the implementation of the agricultural innovation model;
3. The assessment of the cumulative relationship between the effectiveness of policies and the achievement of sustainable local development for the implementation of innovations in agriculture;
4. The paper presents an approach for qualitative assessment of different elements of the delivery mechanism of the innovation approach as a functional essence of the pulling development of agriculture in Bulgaria;

It is impossible to miss that the scientific approach of the PhD student Atije Aliyeva-Veli is oriented from the general, to the particular (the effectiveness of the provision of innovations), and this is decisive for the practical relevance of the whole work. Undoubtedly, the author has drawn her conclusions and generalizations as a result of her broad theoretical background, but when they are also refracted through the focus of research, it helps their wide application. The methodology described in the research paper has the potential to assist both researchers and

central and local government representatives in efforts to profile specific investment approaches. The main aim and objectives as well as the intended methodological steps are fully met. We clearly recognize the author's desire to substantiate results that she will personally appraise and optimize in the process of her future fieldwork, not as a researcher, but as an expert (see author's CV). **In summary, I accept the doctoral student's claims of contributions, which are correctly formulated and adequately reflect the results and achievements of her research**

6. The evaluation of the abstract

The abstract adequately reflects the topicality of the problems discussed in relation to the topic of the thesis. The object, subject and scope of the research, as well as the main goal and tasks set by doctoral student Atije Aliyeva-Veli in the development of the dissertation work are specifically clarified. The research thesis, research methods and limitations of the research are defined.

7. Critical questions, recommendations and comments

Despite the merits of the dissertation, some weaknesses can be outlined, which are typical for any researcher. In particular, it is necessary to examine the development trends and the need for specific investments in agriculture under the current conditions in Bulgaria. These remarks are recommendations to guide the researchers towards the solution of specific territorial problems, but for the present work they are not particularly serious and are of a recommendatory nature, which does not call into question the expressed merits of the dissertation concerning the practical orientation of the results obtained. I recommend that in her future work PhD student Aliyeva focus her efforts on researching the possibilities of our country to make the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy a real priority for rural areas in Bulgaria.

8. Publications and citations

In terms of type and number, the publications submitted correspond to those announced by the PhD student in the attached list. I believe that these publications are a true representation of the doctoral student's achievements and are representative enough to make them known to the academic community and interested business circles of practice. The publications listed:

Aliyeva, A. (2022). Influence of the CAP on innovation factors in agriculture. Journal of Bio-based Marketing, vol.1, 2022, 23 - 41

Aliyeva, A. (2022). Diagnosis of the innovation process in agricultural holdings in the republic of Bulgaria. Journal of Bio-based Marketing, vol.2, 2022, 28 - 45

Aliyeva, A. (2022). Impact of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on the development of agriculture in the Republic of Bulgaria. Trends in the development of the professional field of "Administration and Management" - collection of round table papers. Publishing complex - UNWE, ISBN 978-619-232-600-5, pp. 61 - 77.

, fully correspond to the profile of the research and confirm the positive assessment of the author of the dissertation.

9. Conclusion

In the dissertation the aims and objectives are clear, which doctoral student Aliyeva-Veli has undoubtedly achieved and fulfilled. The analyses are correct, the recommendations justified

and arising from the results of the research. Doctoral student Aliyeva-Veli demonstrates skills of thorough and reasoned analysis, generalizations and critical thinking. The analyzed dissertation represents a creative achievement, which as subject matter, theoretical generalizations, conclusions and recommendations has its undeniable significance for theory and practice in the development of investment in agriculture and implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy. **All this gives me grounds to propose to the distinguished members of the scientific jury to award Atije Bairyamova Aliyeva-Veli the degree of Doctor of Education and Science in the professional field 3.8 Economics, in the scientific specialty "Organization and Management of Production (by branches and sub-sectors).**

Sofia

03.03.2023

Prepared the opinion:

(prof. d-r Kamen Petrov)

