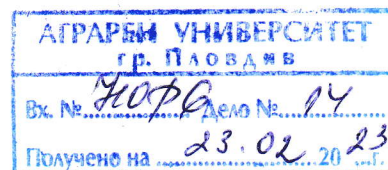


OPINION



On a dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of doctor by field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, professional direction: 3.8. Economics, scientific specialty: Organization and management of production (agriculture and subsectors).

Author of the dissertation: Atidze Bayryamova Aliyeva-Veli - doctoral student of independent training at the Department of "Management and Marketing" at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, in accordance with art. 30 (3) of PPZRASB and Art. 49 (3) of PPZRASAU.

Dissertation topic: Role of the common agricultural policy in promoting the innovation process in agriculture

The statement was prepared by: Associate Professor Dr. Toni Bogdanova Mihova - Technical University - Sofia, Plovdiv branch

Field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

Professional direction: 3.8. Economy

Scientific specialty: Economics and management

Appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order of the Rector of AU - RD-16-1313 of 19.12.2022.

I. Relevance of the problem

The importance of agriculture as a national industry for the development of the economy predetermines as the leading approach for the sustainable development of agricultural holdings. The main idea of this approach is, through its application, to ensure a balance between the growing needs of the population for agrarian goods and services, on the one hand, and limited production factors, on the other hand. This implies a new way of thinking of agrarian management in organizing the production of agrarian goods and services.

What is the situation in the country in recent years? In Bulgaria, the majority of farms are small structures that are characterized by conservative management by farmers. A relatively small part of these farms are led by young people who are the bearers of the innovative development of the agricultural sector, based on the conditions of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which it provides for the development of the innovation process. The implementation of the CAP guarantees the sustainable development of the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the emphasis of the new EU rural development policy is on the application of the principles of circular sharing of resources and the use of bio-based materials and technologies.

In this regard, the topic of the dissertation related to the role of the CAP in promoting the innovation process in agriculture is not only topical, but also of great practical importance.

II. Purpose, tasks and methods of the research

The structure of the dissertation is balanced and includes an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. **The thesis** of the dissertation is that the Common Agricultural Policy creates conditions for promoting the innovation process in agricultural holdings. **The subject** of the study is the innovation process in agricultural holdings under the conditions of the CAP. **The object of the scientific research** is the agricultural holdings operating on the territory of Bulgaria. **The purpose** of the dissertation work is specified - to develop an analysis of the conditions that the CAP creates for the innovation process in agricultural holdings. **Tasks**, logically linked, and solving them creates conditions for realizing the purpose of the research. **The methods used** are systemic, situational, comparative and diagnostic analysis. Using statistical methods, the properties of the studied population were investigated and the research hypotheses were tested.

I strongly express the opinion that the purpose and tasks are formulated briefly and clearly, the methods are selected and used correctly, in accordance with the set tasks of the research.

III. Transparency and presentation of the obtained results

The dissertation has a volume of 190 pages, and the study is illustrated with 72 figures and 14 tables. A number of studies have been carried out, the results of which are presented in the separate chapters of the dissertation.

The first chapter examines the theory of innovation, as a theoretical basis of the essence of innovation and the innovation process. A literature review of the opinions of some of the researchers of innovation and innovation processes was made. The emphasis is on the essence of the role of the CAP on the innovation process in agriculture, clarifying the main idea behind the CAP, the policies it includes as well as the tools to influence the sector. The First and Second pillars of OPS and their institutional influence on the development of agriculture are examined in detail. At the end of the first chapter, the use of the methodological approach for analysis and assessment of the impact of CAP on the innovation process in agricultural holdings is justified.

The assessment of the impact of OPS on the innovation process in the dissertation research is carried out both at the macro and micro level. A deductive approach is used to identify the regularities that occur in the researched objects regarding the innovation process. Due to the lack of sufficient

data on the state of the factors determining the innovation activity of agricultural holdings, the method of expert evaluation and the survey method are used.

The analysis of the credibility of the dissertation thesis proceeds in two successive stages:

- Evaluation of innovation activity of agricultural holdings;
- Assessment of the impact of the CAP on the environment in which the innovation process takes place in the sector both at the farm level and at the macro level.

In the second chapter of the dissertation, the impact of CAP on the innovation process in agriculture is analyzed. The effects of investments in innovation on productivity, competitiveness and the environment are evaluated, emphasizing those factors that largely determine the dynamics and effectiveness of the innovation process in agriculture.

Based on the in-depth analysis, conclusions have been formulated regarding the impact of CAP on the "entrance" of the innovation process in Bulgarian agriculture in the last 10 years, the most significant of which are:

- Under the terms of the CAP, Bulgaria has become an export-oriented country, with state spending on agricultural development increasing 3.3 times.
- Banking institutions play a major role in the formation and development of the innovation process in agriculture.
- The application of bio-products for plant protection within 10 years have increased nearly 4 times.
- Over the past 10 years, the average value of newly purchased equipment on a farm has increased nearly 1.5 times.
- Under the CAP conditions, the turnover of permanent staff on the farm is significantly reduced, and over the last 10 years, farmers have developed digital skills as well as human resource management skills.

Conclusions are also formulated regarding the impact of CAP on the "outcome" of the innovation process in Bulgarian agriculture in the last 10 years, which define the bio-products and bio-preparations needed for the purposes of farmers developing organic production on their farms as innovative products for the final user.

Chapter three of the dissertation analyzes the state of the innovation process at the micro-level and determines the needs of agricultural holdings for higher efficiency from the innovations used in production. A questionnaire survey was conducted, covering 180 agricultural holdings on the territory of

Plovdiv, Pazardzhik, Sliven, Haskovo, Kardjali and Yambol. The survey period is from 10.02 to 30.05. 2022. The purpose of the survey is to collect information about the state of the innovation process in agricultural holdings. The results are presented clearly and precisely and illustrated with figures and diagrams.

Based on the analysis of the results of the research, conclusions were formulated regarding the innovations at the input and output of the "agriculture" system, the more important of which are:

- Mainly, farmers rely on innovations that are environmentally friendly products, which shows that they recognize the environmental friendliness and health aspect of products as a source of innovation that has value in the market.
- Farmers have changed their business model as a result of the implementation of the CAP.
- In 56% of agricultural holdings, investments have increased in recent years.
- The CAP has a crucial role in the acquisition of new assets in agricultural holdings.

The analysis of the obtained results shows that a large number of studies have been carried out, which are the personal work of the doctoral student and form the main contribution in the dissertation work.

I highly appreciate the way the results are presented in the dissertation - clearly, accurately, with a categorically expressed author's position and very good visualization with graphs, tables and figures, which contributes to a better perception of the research results.

IV. References

207 literary sources were used to develop and write the dissertation, of which 97 were by foreign authors. It is noteworthy that up-to-date data of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Directorate "Agrostatistics", the Directorate "Development of Rural Areas", the Directorate "Compensatory Measures", data contained in the Agrarian Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, data from Eurostat and the system of agricultural accounting information were used, as well as a number of normative documents of the European Commission and the Republic of Bulgaria. The main part of the information was collected through surveys among agricultural producers managing agricultural holdings.

The review of the literary sources shows that the doctoral student has successfully selected the necessary literature - an essential condition for the successful realization of the research goals.

I express a definite opinion that Atidze Aliyeva-Veli is familiar with the issues of the dissertation work and is aware of its current state.

V. Contributions of the Dissertation

I accept the reference made for the contributions of the dissertation work, classifying them as follows:

Scientific contributions

- Clarified the specificity of innovations and their role in the management of agricultural holdings.
- A conceptual framework has been developed for evaluating the innovation process in agricultural holdings and for evaluating the impact of the CAP on this process.

Scientific and applied contributions

- The impact of CAP on the innovation process in agricultural holdings has been analyzed and evaluated.
- Specific recommendations have been proposed to improve the application of the CAP in the process of promoting innovation processes in agricultural holdings.

VI. Critical notes and questions

The dissertation is an in-depth study of the role of the common agricultural policy in promoting the innovation process in agriculture, in which the goal and tasks set by the doctoral student are fulfilled.

I recommend that the results of the study be popularized among agricultural holdings in the form of seminars, round tables, meetings with farmers, in order to inform about the results of the research and more precisely about the possibilities for innovation in the conditions of the CAP.

It is also recommended that the doctoral student follow in a longer-term period, in future research, the practice of agricultural holdings and investigate and analyze the difficulties and reasons for the innovation process in the sector.

VII. Published articles

Three independent articles have been published that are related to the dissertation work. The abstract is developed in accordance with the requirements and corresponds to the presentation of the dissertation work.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation is a fully completed scientific research. Based on the various research methods learned and applied by the doctoral student, the presented

material meets the requirements of a dissertation work and the requirements of the Agricultural University and the regulations of the Agricultural University for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it POSITIVELY.

I take the liberty of proposing to the honorable Scientific Jury to also vote positively and award AtidzeBayryamovaAliyeva-Veli the educational and scientific degree DOCTOR in the scientific specialty Organization and Management of Production (agriculture and subsectors) .

15.02.2023
Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion:
/Assoc. Professor Dr. Toni Mihova

