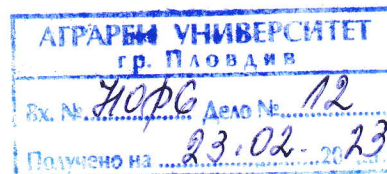


# REVIEW



on the dissertation work for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the field of higher education: 3 "Social, economic and equal sciences", professional direction: 3.8 "Economics", scientific specialty: "Organization and management of production (agriculture and subsectors)".

The author of the dissertation is ATIDZE BAYRYAMOVA ALIEVA-VELI, a doctoral student of self-study at the Department of "Management and Marketing" with the topic of the dissertation: "Role of CAP in promoting the innovation process in agriculture".

**Reviewer:** Associate Professor Doctor of Sciences Petar Borisov Borisov, Agrarian University, Plovdiv, field of higher education: 3. Social, economic and equal sciences, professional direction: 3.7 Administration and management, scientific specialty: Organization and management of production appointed as the chairman of the scientific jury with order No. RD 16-1313/19.12.2022 of the Rector of the Agricultural University.

## 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Atidje Aliyeva was born on September 18, 1981. In 2014, she graduated with an educational and qualification degree - "master" in public administration with a specialization - state administration at the University of National and World Economy (UNSS). The bachelor's degree is in the field of biotechnology and the doctorate is completed at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Sofia.

Mrs. Aliyeva began her working career as a laboratory assistant - "microbiology" in the enterprise Danon Serdika in 2005. In 2008, he entered the structures of the State Fund "Agriculture" - Payment Agency of the city of Sofia as an expert. In 2010, in the same state structure, she reached the position of senior expert, and in 2011, to the position of chief expert. In 2019, he held the position of Deputy Executive Director of the Agriculture Fund. From 04.06. 2019 to present, Ms. Aliyeva is a member of the European Parliament working in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

## 2. Relevance of the problem.

The innovation process in Bulgarian agriculture has been accelerated in recent years within the framework of the CAP thanks to the combination of market principles

with adequate sectoral policies. The fact is indisputable that without the support of the CAP, the modernization of agriculture and its competitiveness would not be at this level. The main industries that quickly adapted and developed in the new CAP framework are grain production and organic production. Thanks to the generous financial support, these industries are pointed to as favorites and an example of abundant innovation in the agricultural sector. Innovations are useless if the market rejects them, which determines and requires the study of the relationship between innovations and the competitiveness of agricultural products. In the introduction to his dissertation, the doctoral student steps precisely on these points of support in defending the relevance of his chosen topic. As a reviewer, I agree with the aforementioned arguments for the relevance of the chosen topic and I believe that any scientific research in the field of regulations and innovation support in agriculture has relevance and the potential for originality of the obtained results, if they are objectively reflected, systematized and analyzed.

### **3. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and research methods.**

The aim of this dissertation is to analyze the conditions that the CAP creates for the innovation process in agricultural holdings. The realization of the goal set in this way is carried out through the resolution of the following scientific and research tasks:

1. Clarification of the essence and role of innovations in the management of agricultural holdings;
2. Clarifying the nature of the CAP and its role in promoting innovation in agriculture;
3. Development of a conceptual framework for evaluating the innovation process in agricultural holdings and for evaluating the impact of the CAP on this process;
4. Analyzing and evaluating the factors of the innovation process in the agricultural sector;
5. Analyzing and evaluating the impact of the CAP on the innovation process in agricultural holdings and the sector as a whole;
6. Formulation of recommendations to improve the application of CAP in the process of promoting innovation processes in agricultural holdings.

The tasks formulated in this way enable the goal of the dissertation research to be achieved. The research tasks determine the structure of the dissertation research and they should be subordinated to the purpose. This is present in the dissertation submitted for review.



In the present dissertation study, the thesis is defended that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) creates conditions for promoting the innovation process in agricultural holdings.

Leading subtheses in the study are:

- The CAP sets a framework that determines the potential for innovation in farms and the sector as a whole;
- CAP influences the innovation process of agricultural holdings and their adaptability to market conditions.

I believe that the thesis defined in this way can be successfully proved or rejected by the doctoral student. Honor goes to the doctoral student and his supervisor for correctly defining the object and subject of research. In this way, at the very beginning of their mutual work, they laid the prerequisites for successfully organizing their scientific research and objectively synthesizing and analyzing the results obtained from it.

The main methods that the doctoral student used in his scientific research are - systemic, situational, comparative and diagnostic analysis. Through these methods, the doctoral student sought to gain an in-depth understanding of the innovation process in the country's agriculture. Through the application of statistical methods, the doctoral student was able to assess the relationship between the main factors determining the status of the innovation process in the sector.

#### **4. Transparency and presentation of the obtained results.**

The dissertation work is developed in a volume of 207 pages, and is structured in the following sections - introduction, exposition in three chapters, conclusion, used literature and appendices. It is noteworthy that this structure corresponds to the scientific tasks set already in the introduction and enables the reviewer to easily follow the logical framework of the overall scientific research. The dissertation is rich in facts, which are skilfully reflected in 72 figures and 14 tables. The use of the graphic method in presenting information is extremely preferred and useful in order for the reader to quickly perceive and interpret the data resulting from the conducted research. Already immediately after the content

of the dissertation, the doctoral student has presented a list of the figures and tables used, such as the title, source and period of research, which enables the reader (reviewer) to quickly review and reconsider the information presented in the dissertation. I believe that the graphs, figures and tables presented in this way give the maximum opportunity for visualization of the obtained results.

## **5. Discussion of results and used literature.**

The dissertation submitted for review reflects in depth the latest research in the field of the innovation process in agriculture both in Bulgaria and on a European and global scale. Already in the first chapter of the dissertation, the author examines the main statements regarding the theory of innovation, namely the essence and role of innovation in the management of agrarian business. The main theses of various researchers regarding the genesis and nature of innovations as well as their role in the overall management of the agricultural holding and the agricultural sector are examined. The doctorate, as a distinguished practitioner in the field of national and European policy, presents in depth the essence of the CAP and its role in the development of innovations in agriculture. As a result of a thorough literature analysis, Mrs. Aliyeva presents in detail an objective and properly reasoned research methodology. Any scientific research must take place within certain restrictive conditions that objectively reflect the object and subject of research. In this case, this rule is followed! The research methodology is clearly presented, namely research approaches and methods, indicators for analysis and evaluation, as well as the structure of the survey, which is used when conducting the research.

In the second chapter, through the correct application of the research methodology, the doctoral student was able to present the results of the conducted research. Through numerous comparisons, collected surveys and held discussions within focus groups, the doctoral student presents the conclusions of her analysis in a systematic manner. I dare to say that the presented conclusions are well-argued and arise as a result of the synthesized data from the organization of the dissertation research.

In the third chapter of the dissertation, the doctoral student was able to identify the needs of agricultural holdings in the context of the innovation process and proposed a strategy for the development of this process in the future.

## **6. Contributions of the dissertation work.**

The dissertation contains the following contributions, ideas and solutions:



- The essence and role of innovations in the management of agricultural holdings are clarified;
- The essence of the CAP and its role in promoting innovation in agricultural holdings are clarified;
- A conceptual framework has been developed for evaluating the innovation process in agricultural holdings and for evaluating the impact of CAP on this process;
- The factors of the innovation process in the agricultural sector have been analyzed and evaluated;
- The impact of CAP on the innovation process in agricultural holdings and the sector as a whole has been analyzed and evaluated;
- Specific recommendations have been formulated to improve the application of CAP in the process of promoting innovation processes in agricultural holdings.

## **7. Critical notes and recommendations.**

From the materials submitted for review, it is clear that the doctoral student within the framework of the independent form of study did well and diligently archived and provided the materials for review. I believe that the submitted dissertation is his work and meets the requirements of the department in terms of structure and volume. The abstract objectively reflects the structure and content of the dissertation, as the main highlights of the conducted scientific research are given in a synthesized form.

I have no notes and recommendations for the doctoral student's work.

## **8. Published articles and citations.**

On the topic of the dissertation, the doctoral student has published three independent articles, which is the required minimum for obtaining the educational qualification degree of doctor, namely they are:

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

3. Aliyeva, A. (2022). Influence of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on the development of agriculture in the Republic of Bulgaria. Trends in the development of the professional field "Administration and management" - a collection of round table reports. Publishing complex - UNSS, ISBN 978-619-232-600-5, str. 61 – 77.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the submitted materials for review, I believe that the submitted dissertation meets the requirements of the national legislation and the Regulations of the Agrarian University, 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 ATIDZE BAYRYAMOVA ALIEVA-VELI the educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific specialty Organization and Production of Management.

Date: 21/02/2023,  
Plovdiv

REVIEWER.....  
(Assoc. prof. Petar Borisov)