



OPINION

on the dissertation submitted for the award of 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: "Economics and Management (Agriculture)"

Author of the dissertation:

Rosen Plamenov Ivanov,
Full-time PhD student at the Department of Economics,
Agricultural University, Plovdiv

Title of the dissertation:

RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Albena Todorova Kraeva-Miteva, UNWE,
Field of Higher Education 3.0 – Social, Economic, and Legal Sciences,
Professional Field 3.8 – Economics,
Scientific Specialty: "Economics and Management (Ecoeconomics)"

Appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. RD-16-368/13.03.2025 of
the Rector of the Agricultural University.

1. Relevance of the Topic

The topic of the dissertation is highly relevant, given the inherently risky nature of the agricultural sector, especially under the conditions of climate and market shocks. Horticulture, as a sub-sector, has its specific vulnerabilities and remains insufficiently studied within the context of systematic risk management in Bulgaria. The author convincingly emphasizes the necessity of an integrated approach to risk management, addressing a significant gap in the national scientific and practical literature.

2. Objectives, Tasks, Hypotheses, and Research Methods

The research is based on a thorough review of scientific literature and practical challenges. The research thesis is well formulated and logically linked to the four hypotheses, the objectives, and the tasks of the dissertation. The proposed hypotheses are properly developed and substantiated throughout the work.

The subject and object of the dissertation are clearly defined and correspond to the formulated thesis, objectives, and tasks. The limitations and scope of the study are correctly specified.

The main aim is to identify the primary types of risks in horticulture, assess their impact, and propose appropriate management strategies. To achieve this aim, five tasks are set, related to theory analysis, methodology development, empirical data collection and

processing, evaluation of risk management processes, and formulation of practical solutions.

A comprehensive methodological approach is employed, combining deductive and case study analyses, survey methods, and statistical techniques including regression and dispersion analyses. The research covers a wide range of horticultural farms throughout Bulgaria, mainly concentrated in the Upper Thracian Plain.

3. Illustration and Presentation of Results

The dissertation is structured into four chapters, preceded by an introduction and followed by a conclusion, bibliography, and appendices. It consists of 200 pages, including 45 figures and 16 tables. A total of 144 literature sources are cited, 110 of which are in Latin script. The author demonstrates proper use of sources and an excellent understanding of the research subject.

4. Discussion of Results and Literature Used

In the first chapter, the theoretical foundations of risk management in agriculture are explored, focusing on horticulture. Risks are classified into various categories – external, sector-specific, organizational, biological, theft, and vandalism risks.

The second chapter presents the methodological framework and formulates six hypotheses regarding farmers' perceptions, risk significance, and management behavior.

The third chapter provides the results of the survey, including farmers' profiles, risk types, and classification into six main groups. Particularly valuable is the proposed model for risk management in horticulture, tailored to the sector's specifics. The fourth chapter offers practical recommendations at macro, sectoral, and micro levels, addressing both state policies and farm-level decision-making.

5. Contributions of the Dissertation

The main scientific and applied contributions of the dissertation include:

- In-depth analysis of the essence and specificity of risk in horticultural farms;
- Development of an analytical framework for studying risk factors;
- Practical proposals to enhance sector resilience;
- Formulation of managerial and institutional mechanisms at three levels for risk management.

6. Critical Notes and Questions

The dissertation raises important questions that the candidate should address during the defense:

- Justification of the role of government policies and institutional support in risk management and proposals for appropriate measures;
- Clarification of the link between farmers' individual characteristics (such as age, education, and experience) and their risk management strategies and choices.

7. Published Articles and Citations

The author has published two articles related to the dissertation topic in the peer-reviewed journal *Agricultural Sciences* (2023 and 2025).

The author's abstract accurately reflects the structure and content of the dissertation, logically presenting the main results, contributions, and bibliography.

CONCLUSION

Based on the variety of research methods applied by the candidate, the correctly conducted experiments, and the conclusions drawn, I consider that the submitted dissertation meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv for its application. Therefore, I evaluate the dissertation POSITIVELY.

I respectfully propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury also votes positively and awards Rosen Plamenov Ivanov the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management (Agriculture)".

Date: 29.04.2025
Plovdiv

Reviewer:
(Prof. Albena Miteva)