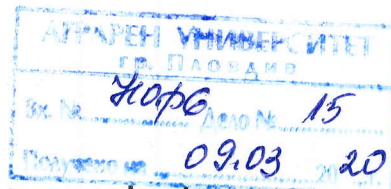


## STATEMENT



Concerning the competition for the academic position "Professor", in the scientific specialty Crop Production, announced in the State Gazette No. 93 of November 26, 2019. Candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev.

By Prof. Dr. Dragomir Gospodinov Valchev, appointed pursuant to order No. 16-17/14.01.2020 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Bulgaria as a Member of the Scientific Jury.

### 1. Brief introduction of the applicant.

Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev was born on 30.05.1968 in Dobrich. He graduated from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in 1993 with a degree in Agro-engineering husbandry. In the same year, he started working as an agronomist in the Agricultural Cooperative "Gea" in the village of Dubovik, district Dobrich. During the period 1994 - 1996 he worked as a teacher of crop production at the Technical School of Agriculture "Todor Rachinski" in General Toshevo. In the period 1996 - 2002, after winning a competition, he started working as a research assistant at the Dobruja Agricultural Institute - General Toshevo. During the period 2002 - 2005 he was a full-time Ph.D. student at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv in the scientific specialty Crop Production. In 2006 he started working as an assistant at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, leading students' exercises and practices in crop production disciplines. In 2006 he defended his dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic "Research on the biological and agronomy performance of new triticale varieties, depending on agro-ecological conditions and nitrogen fertilization". In 2012 he acquired the scientific title "Associate Professor". His scientific interests are in the fields of crop production, fertilization, triticale productivity, wheat and oats, product quality, growth regulators, drought resistance, foliar fertilization and more. He is fluent in written and spoken English, Russian and Spanish.

### 2. General description of scientific production.

In the competition for "Professor" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev participated with a total production of 132 works, grouped as follows:

- ❖ Works, covering the national minimum science-metric requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**" – 9 issues (30.6 points), all of which under indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - scientific publications submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes (**non-peer-reviewed**);
- ❖ Works, covering the national minimum science-metric requirements for occupation of the academic position "**Associate Professor**" - 59 issues (391.3 points), 10 of which under indicator B4 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases (191 points) (**non-peer-reviewed**), and 49 issues under indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria – scientific publications submitted in non-refereed

peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes (200.3 points) (**non-peer-reviewed**).

- ❖ The works with which the candidate participates in the current competition for the occupation of the academic position "**Professor**", covering the national minimum science-metric requirements are as follows: monograph - 1 issue (indicator B3 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 100 points), papers and reports submitted in referenced and indexed issues in the world-famous scientific information databases - 1 issue (indicator D7 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 15 points), scientific publications submitted in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in collective volumes - 44 issues (indicator G8 of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 188.6 points). The candidate also presents 7 popular science articles (**do not form points**), 2 published University textbooks (E22 indicator of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 8 points), 3 published University manuals (E23 indicator of the Rules for the implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria - 42.2 points) and 6 training programs issues - (**do not form points**).

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev's personal involvement in the above 46 works is illustrated by the fact that 8 papers are single author, in 13 - is the first, in 11 is the second, and in the remaining 14 is the third and next author.

### 3. Teaching activity.

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev is Lecturer in Crop Production, Field Crops, Tobacco and Grain Production /Full-time and Part-time Education/ in the occupation of Agriculture, Plant Protection, Ecology, and Environmental Protection, Agrarian Engineering, Zoo Engineering, Ornamental Horticulture, Mountain Agriculture and Agribusiness at Bachelor's Degree Program and Master's Degree Programs - Crop Production in the Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship. He teaches Cereal and legume crops and Industrial and fodder crops in a foreign language.

#### *Student employment training.*

For the last five years, Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev has a total of 2 954 teaching hours, which is an average of 600 hours per year. The teaching activity is complemented by the management of 23 successfully defended graduates, of whom 13 bachelors and 10 masters. He is the supervisor of 7 Ph.D. students, 3 of which successfully defended.

#### *Study materials published.*

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev is a co-author of two textbooks on Crop Production and one study guide - A Guide to Crop Production. He is the author of two English language guides Cereal crops and Legume crops.

#### *Development of training programs.*

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev has developed 5 Bachelor and 1 Master's Degree training programs.

The training programs include topics that allow students to get acquainted with

the basic cereals and legumes, the systematics and agronomic qualities of the regional varieties, the place of crops in the crop rotation, soil tillage, fertilization, and care during the growing season, harvesting and storage of production.

#### **4. Research activities.**

##### *Areas of publication.*

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev's research and publications deal with issues related to nitrogen fertilization, quality of common wheat, leaf fertilization, quality of durum wheat, plasticity and stability of triticale, fertilization and irrigation of maize and soybeans, drought resistance of barley, winter oat productivity, triticale growth regulators, etc.

##### *Citation and abstracting of scientific production.*

The materials submitted by the applicant contained a total of 43 citations. Of these, 28 are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous scientific information databases. The other 15 citations are in non-refereed journals with a scientific review.

##### *Participation in scientific projects.*

Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev is involved in a total of 5 projects with outside funding. In two projects he is an academic mentor, in the other three, he is a participant.

#### **5. Remarks and Recommendations.**

There is no.

#### **6. Conclusion**

The analysis of the teaching, research, scientific-applied and publishing activities shows that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Rules of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv for its implementation. A large number of scientific papers, textbooks, and training programs presented has both significant scientific contributions and pedagogical experience. Participation in a significant number of scientific projects, the leadership of Ph.D. students and graduates is confirmed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hristofor Kirchev as an established lecturer and scientist in the field of plant science.

All of this convinced me to give a positive assessment of his overall activity.

I venture to recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury also giving their positive assessment, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Hristofor Kirchev Kirchev, as a "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Crop Production".

Date: 4.03.2020  
Town of Karnobat

**Statement prepared by:**

(Prof. Dr. Dragomir Valchev)