



Scientific opinion

Opinion on the competition for "Professor" in the scientific specialty Crop Production, announced in State Gazette no. 93 of 26.01. 2019 with the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christophor Kirchev Kirchev

by Prof. Dr. Nikolay Panayotov, appointed pursuant to Order No. RD 16-17 / 14.01.2020 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Short introduction of the applicant.

Assoc. Prof. PhD Christophor Kirchev Kirchev was born on May 30, 1968 in Dobrich. Since 1988 he started training at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv (HIA). He graduated from the same university in 1993 as a Master Agro-Field Engineer. From 1993 to 1994 he worked as an agronomist in the Agricultural Cooperative "Gaia" in the village of Dubovik, Dobrich. In the period 1994-1996 he was a teacher at the Technical School "T. Rachinski "Gen. Toshevo. He is a scientific research at the Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute, Gen. Toshevo from 1996-2002. During the period 2002-2005 he was a PhD student in the Department of Crop Production at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv. Since 2006 he has consistently work as the following academic positions as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant in the Department of Plant Production at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv. From 2012 until now he is an Associate Professor in the same department. His main activity is related to teaching lectures and exercises in crop production disciplines to Bulgarian and foreign students, training graduate students and PhD students, as well as conducting field experiments and publishing the results of them.

2. General description of scientific production.

The total scientific output for the entire length of work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kirchev is expressed in the publication of 114 scientific papers and publications. Of these, 9 are in order to meet the requirements for a PhD doctorate and 59 are in order to meet the requirements for an associate professor position, which are not subject to review.

In the competition for "Professor" Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christophor Kirchev Kirchev participates with a total output of 46 works, grouped as follows:

- ❖ *Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 46, of which:*
 - *Monograph - 1 item;*
 - *Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals - 1 issue*
 - *Publications in non-refereed journals - 44, including publications in conference proceedings - 15;*

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christophor Kirchev Kirchev in the aforementioned 46 works is illustrated by the fact that 8 are independent, 13 are first, 11 are second, and the remaining 14 are third and subsequent authors.

He has published 7 popular science articles.

- ❖ □ *Textbooks - 2 pieces.*
 - ❖ □ *Study guides - 3 pieces.*
- 46 issues are subject to analysis.*

3. Teaching activities.

Assoc. Prof. Christophor Kirchev Kirchev has 13 years of teaching experience, entirely in the Department of Crop Production. During this time he has delivered exercises and lectures in a number of disciplines, such as Crop production, Field crops, Tobacco production, Grain production with Bulgarian and foreign students, both in full-time and part-time education. He has taught in almost all bachelor's specialties at the Agraricultural University-Plovdiv, namely Agriculture, Plant Protection, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Agrarian Engineering, Zoo-Engineering, Agriculture, Ornamental Horticulture, Agrarian Economics, Viticulture and Horticulture, etc. In his master's course in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship he has lectured and practiced on the field of Crop production. For two consecutive years he taught foreign students in Cereal and legume crops and one in Plant protection in English.

Student work load training.

For the past five years he has lead a total of 2953.8 hours.

The teaching activity is complemented by the fact that under his scientific guidance, 13 Bachelor's and 10 Master's students are successfully graduated with there Diploma thesis. He was the scientific supervisor of three successfully defended PhD students, and of one of them he is an independent supervisor.

Published study materials.

He has published two textbooks on English, Cereal crops - a practical guide and Legume crops - a practical guide, and in collective two textbooks on "Crop Production" and one "Guide to Crop Exercises".

Curriculum developed.

He has developed a total of 6 Curriculums, 4 of which are for Bachelor's Degree in Grain production, Field Crops and Crop Studies, included in the curricula of various specialties. He has prepared one program for training foreign students in Cereal and legume crops, as well as for the Crop production course for the Master course in Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship.

4. Research activity.

Areas of publication.

The main scientific activity carried out by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kirchev is related to research in the field of agrotechnology, biological and economic features of a large range of field crops. Mainly studies have focused on triticale and wheat. There is also scientific activity with soybean, corn and barley. Although more limited, he did research with oats, sunflower, sorghum, coriander, basil and a Kazanlak rose. He has conducted variety testing of Bulgarian and foreign varieties. He explores various technological practice and methods for improving the development of the mentioned crops. In this scopes and with these crops are his scientific publications.

Citation and referred of scientific production.

In the presented information is indicated that the scientific publications of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kirchev have been cited 42 times, with 28 issues are in refereed editions and the rest in non-refereed ones. This shows that he is a recognizable in the scientific community.

Participation in scientific projects.

He participated in the work of 4 national educational projects and one international scientific project.

I accept the information for the contributions, which are divided into two groups: Scientific Contributions - 8 and Scientific Applied - 9.

5. Notes and Recommendations.

I have no significant comments on the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Kirchev. I would recommend him to expand his research to other areas, such as the breeding of some Field crops, as well as to publish more articles in refereed scientific publications.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the applicant's pedagogical, scientific and applied scientific activity, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christopher Kirchev Kirchev meets the requirements of the a Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Agricultural Academy Regulations for its application

Основание за това ми дава, че предствя достатъчно научни публикации, включително и монография и покрива изискванията на ЗРАСРБ. Педагогическата му дейност е също на високо ниво, както по броя на преподаваните дисциплини, така и във връзка с подготвените учебни пособия и добрата работа със студенти и докторанти.

Reason for it gives me that he submitting sufficient scientific publications, including a monograph, and meeting the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. His pedagogical activity is also at a high level, both in terms of the number of subjects taught and in relation to the prepared studied text books and guides and the good work with students and doctoral students.

All of this gives me reason to rate his overall activities **POSITIVELY**. I allow myself to offer the honourable Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and Faculty Факултетният Counsel of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christophor Kirchev Kirchev as a "Professor" in the scientific specialty Crop Production.

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Plovdiv

PREPARE THE OPINION:
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(Prof. Dr. Nikolay Panayotov)