



## Point of view

to the competition for „professor” in the scientific specialty "Selection and seed production of cultivated plants (Plant biotechnology)", announced in SG no. 7 of 25.01.2022 with a candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva

by Prof. Dr. Nikolay Dimitrov Panayotov, Agricultural University-Plovdiv, appointed according to Order № RD16-368/28.03.2022 of the Rector of Agricultural University-Plovdiv for chairman of the Scientific jury

### 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva was born on June 15, 1962. She graduated in General Agronomy at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv in 1989. Since 1997 after defending her doctoral thesis with title "*In vitro* regeneration" and genetic transformation in the selection of plum (*Prunus domestica* L.) " she is a "doctor". Since 1996 she has been an agronomist, research associate II and I degree in the Laboratory of Plant Biotechnology at the Department of Genetics and Selection at the Agricultural University, and since 2006 she has been a senior assistant at the same department.

Since 2008 she has been an associate professor. Until 2016 she was the head of the Plant Biotechnology Laboratory. Subsequently, she held the administrative positions of Chairman of the General Assembly, Deputy Rector for International Affairs and Public Relations and Business of AU-Plovdiv, and in the period from 03.02.2017 to 12.05.2017 was Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The main teaching and research activities are related to research in the field of plant biotechnology, plant cell and tissue cultures, biotechnological methods in plant selection, as well as plant genetic resources.

### 2. General description of the scientific production.

The total scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva, for her entire career is summarized in 91 scientific papers. It fully meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of "professor", and for its participation in the competition has presented a total of 39 scientific papers, grouped as follows:

Scientific publications in the scientific field and the nomenclature specialty - 39 issues, of which:

- Publications with impact factor - 10 issues
- Publications in peer-reviewed and referred scientific journals - 25 issues;
- Publications in conference proceedings - 5 issues;

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. St. Yancheva in the 39 works is illustrated by the fact that there are no independent publications, in 13 she is first, in 8 she is second, in 8 she is third, and in the other 10 she is fourth and next author, which is proof of successful teamwork.

- ❖ Textbooks - 1 issue (in electronic format, published in the distance learning platform).
- ❖ Training manuals - 2 pieces.

All 39 issues are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.  
Due to co-authorship - scientific article № 36 I do not review.

### **3. Teaching activity.**

The teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. St. Yancheva is almost 24 years old. Her work as a teacher is significant. She has conducted classes with full-time and part-time bachelor's students in almost all specialties at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. She has conducted also lectures and exercises in the following masters courses: Plant biotechnology, Viticulture with fundamentals of winemaking, Breeding and Seed Production, Agribusiness, Plant Protection and Plant Medicine. Assoc. Prof. Yancheva has also lectured at foreign universities in Germany, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, China and Greece.

#### *Candidate's teaching employment.*

Throughout the years she has fulfilled the required norm for teaching workload of lectures and exercises. Her teaching activity is complemented by the scientific guidance of 17 successfully defended graduates student, three postgraduates and five doctoral students, three of whom successfully defended.

#### *Published study materials.*

She has published two educational guides, as well as a textbook on the distance learning system in electronic form in the discipline "Plant Biotechnology".

#### *Developed educational curricula.*

She has developed 20 curricula in a large number of disciplines: Plant Biotechnology, Plant Cell and Tissue Culture, Biotechnological Methods in Plant Selection, Plant Genetic Resources, Plant Biotechnology, Plant Cell Tissue and Organ Cultures, Plant Genetic Resources and others. All curricula are developed according to the requirements, in the required completeness, according to the hours and are adapted for the different courses and specialties in the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. She is also the author of 5 curricula in English for teaching students ERASMUS +

### **4. Research activity.**

The main directions of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva's research are related to the development and optimization of some biotechnological methods related to micropropagation, regeneration systems, somatic embryogenesis and organogenesis, callus and cell cultures, as well as assisted selection through molecular markers. These studies have been conducted in a significant number of crops belonging to different crop areas - plum, apple, raspberry fodder pea, paulownia, pepper, tomato and others.

As a result of her research, she developed protocols for micropropagation, induction of cell and protoplast cultures. At the same time, she points out molecular markers for an alternative approach to selection. Using ISSR markers reveals the ability to distinguish profiles of different species and identify varieties.

I fully accept the mentioned scientific-theoretical, original and scientific-applied contributions, which fully represent her scientific activity and correspond to the results obtained and presented in the publications. Assoc. Prof. Yancheva is also a co-author of a variety of pepper.

#### *Areas of publication.*

The publications of the results of the research of Assoc. Prof. Dr. St. Yancheva are mainly related to the field of Plant Breeding and especially in the direction of micropropagation in order to support the selection process, identification of genotypes, development of protocols for micropropagation, as well as in connection with the state and development of certain crop branches. Many of her scientific works have been published in world-renowned high-index journals and referenced in world-renowned databases.

*Citing and abstracting scientific research.*

The importance of her research is confirmed by the large number of established citations - 29 publications, cited 167 times, as well as the high h-index = 7. It should be noted that one of her articles is cited 24 times in scientific papers cited in the Scopus database.

*Participation in research projects.*

All these scientific researches and the mentioned achievements are a result of the active participation of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva in 12 international projects, as a leader or as a member of the research teams.

**5. Remarks and recommendations.**

I have no serious remarks regarding the teaching and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva. I would recommend that she continue to publish in world-famous scientific journals, as well as to summarize the accumulated extensive scientific experience in a specialized book or monograph. I also consider it appropriate to deepen its educational activities, through organizing and developing new courses and disciplines, both for the Agricultural University of Plovdiv and for external participants, such as in the system of additional training.

**6. Conclusion.**

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva meets the requirements of Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Rules for the application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application, for which the reason give me hers considerable teaching activity, its large-scale scientific and research work in a modern and important field, as well as significant and high-value publications and the large numbers of citations.

All this gives me reason to appreciate **POSITIVELY** her overall work.

I would like to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva as "Professor" in the field of "Selection and seed production of cultivated plants (Plant biotechnology)".

Date: 10. V. 2022 г.  
Plovdiv

Prepared the Point of view: .....

(Prof. Dr. Nikolay Panayotov)