



# OPINION

from

**Prof. Dr. Kiril Todorov Popov**

member of the scientific jury, appointed by the Rector of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, according to Order № RD 16-368 of 28.03.2022.

**About:** competition for "professor" in the scientific specialty "Breeding and seed production of cultivated plants" ("Plant Biotechnology"), announced in SG no. 7 of January 25, 2022 with **candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva**

## 1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva was born on June 15, 1962 in Sofia.

In 1989 he graduated from the Agricultural University of Plovdiv, with a master's degree in Agronomy and Field Breeding, specializing in Plant Biotechnology.

Acquired the ONS "Doctor" on "In vitro regeneration and genetic transformation in the selection of plums (*Prunus domestica* L.)".

He held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in 2008.

Simultaneously with the teaching and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. St. Yancheva performs a number of administrative functions - from 2006 to 2016 she was Head of the Laboratory "Plant Biotechnology" at the University of Plovdiv; from 2012 to 2016 he was Chairman of the General Assembly of Plovdiv University; from 03.02.1017 to 12.05.2017 he is briefly Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; from 2016 until now he has been the Vice-Rector of the Agrarian University in charge of international activities and public relations and business.

## 2. General description of the submitted materials.

The total scientific production presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva consists of 81 scientific papers and publications. Of these, 42 are related to the dissertation and the first habilitation, which are not subject to consideration.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva participated in the competition for "professor" with a total of 39 scientific papers, which are subject to consideration and evaluation in preparing the opinion.

The scientific works are grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty - 36 issues, of which:
  - Publications with impact factor (IF) - 10 issues;
  - Publications with indexed impact rank (SJR) - 13 issues;
  - Publications in peer-reviewed and peer-reviewed scientific journals - 25 issues;
  - Publications in editions without SJR and IF - 10 issues.
  - Book on the developed dissertation - 1 issue;
  - Study guides - 2 pieces.

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva in these 39 scientific papers is illustrated by the fact that in 13 - is the first, in 8 - is the second, in 8 - is the third and in 10 is the fourth and next author.

## 3. Teaching activity.

The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. St. Yancheva is rich and diverse. She participates in the training of students from 9 specialties in the bachelor's course of the Agrarian University - *Viticulture and organic production; Plant biotechnology; Arable farming; Agribusiness; Selection and seed production; Viticulture and Horticulture; Ornamental gardening and landscaping; Tropical and subtropical agriculture; Plant Protection* and 2 in the master's course: *Plant Protection and Selection and Seed Production*.

The disciplines in which he conducts training are: *Plant biotechnology; Plant genetic resources; Biotechnological methods in plant selection; Plant cell and tissue cultures; Phylogenetic resources, methods for creating genetic diversity and for working with populations; Application of biotechnological methods for production of seeds and planting material; Genetically modified plants. Regulatory base; Biotechnological methods in fruit crops and Biotechnological methods in vine selection*.

Assoc. Prof. Yancheva is the author of the curricula in these disciplines and participates in their updating. Some of the programs are in English.

From the report on study load for the last 5 years, the classroom employment is on average 423.9 hours per school year.

The teaching activity is complemented by the preparation of 17 graduates and the management of 5 doctoral students, three of whom have successfully defended and one expelled with the right to defend.

The participation of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva in the numerous training courses taught at various universities under the Erasmus program is impressive.

According to the competition, Assoc. Yancheva presents 2 manuals - "Guide to selection and seed production and plant biotechnology" and "Modern methods in genetics and agricultural biotechnology."

In the distance learning system of the University of Sofia, Assoc. Prof. Yancheva has published a textbook in electronic form in the discipline "Plant Biotechnology".

As an authoritative scientist, Assoc. Prof. Yancheva participates in the composition of various scientific juries, preparing 3 reviews (one for the academic title "Professor" and 2 for ONS "Doctor") and 6 opinions (5 for the academic title "Associate Professor" and 1 for ONS "Doctor").

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

##### *Areas of publication.*

The main field in which Assoc. Prof. Yancheva has dedicated her research work is plant biotechnology and tissue culture. The various biotechnological methods used, as well as the application of molecular marker-assisted selection in a variety of plant species are the subject of research and published scientific results. Original, scientific and applied scientific contributions to agricultural science and practice have been received in these areas. He is a co-author in the creation of a new variety of pepper Desislava.

The research in the publications is reflected in 168 citations. 29 of the publications are cited. One of the articles - № 34 from the general list of publications and papers - was cited 24 times in Scopus.

The variety of crops and specific methods with which Assoc. Prof. Yancheva works in plant biotechnology and tissue crops is a prerequisite for working in larger teams.

It should also be noted that Assoc. Prof. Yancheva is a sought-after and valuable participant in the development of joint projects both in Bulgaria and with well-known foreign scientists.

She is the leader of 7 international projects under the Erasmus program and 1 under Seerus. He is also a member of 1 national project funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food Organization (FAO).

Everything mentioned so far is proof of the importance of scientific research, the high potential and qualities of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva as an active, purposeful and working at a modern level scientist and lecturer.

The scientific publications and papers presented by Assoc. Prof. Yancheva cover the national minimum scientometric requirements for acquiring and holding the academic position of "professor" at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

group indicators	professor	candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr Sv. Yancheva
A	50	50
Б	–	–
B	100	116,74
Г	200	220,76
Д	100	360
E	100	686,67

#### 5. Remarks and recommendations.

It is recommended that Assoc. Prof. Yancheva continue her research work with the enthusiasm with which she has worked so far and to pass on her extensive experience to her younger colleagues in the field of plant biotechnology.

#### 6. Conclusion.

The analysis of the presented data on teaching engagement, scientific publications and works of Assoc. Prof. Svetla Yancheva shows her purposeful research work with original contributions of scientific-theoretical, methodological and scientific-applied nature for science, practice and student learning.

The results of scientific research have been published in Bulgarian and foreign indexed scientific journals and have been cited many times in world databases - Scopus and Web of Science.

I highly appreciate the professional and personal qualities of Assoc. Prof. Yancheva, as well as her skills to skillfully combine science, academic and organizational activities.

All this gives me reason to believe that Assoc. Prof. Yancheva meets the requirements of ZRASRB, PPZRASRB and the Regulations of the Agrarian University for its application for the academic position of "professor".

I estimate **POSITIVELY** her overall activity and allow myself to suggest to the esteemed Scientific Jury to vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Dimitrova Yancheva as "**Professor**" of Science. specialty "Breeding and seed production of cultivated plants" ("Plant Biotechnology").

Date: 15 .05. 2022

Toun Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion: .....

(Prof. Dr. K. Popov)