



STATEMENT

regarding the competition for "professor" in the scientific specialty of Plant Breeding, announced in SG No. 99 of 28.11.2023 with candidate Dr. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

By Prof. Dr. Hristina Georgieva Yancheva, appointed according to Order No. RD-16-145/30.01.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University - Plovdiv as a member of the scientific jury

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova was born on 16.01.1969 in the town of Elhovo. In 1987, he entered as a full-time student at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv (VSI) and graduated in 1992 with a master's degree in agricultural engineering. From 1994 to 1998, he worked as a teacher at the Private Agricultural College-Plovdiv. Since 1998, he has been a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Crop Science at the Agrarian University-Plovdiv. In 2001, she defended his dissertation on the topic "Study of the reaction of cotton varieties grown on soils contaminated with heavy metals" and obtained a Doctorate. Since 2002, he has successively held the academic positions of assistant, senior assistant, and chief assistant. From 2011 to now, he has been an associate professor at the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University-Plovdiv. The main activity of Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova is related to giving lectures and exercises on plant breeding disciplines to full-time and part-time students in bachelor's and master's degrees, training of graduates and doctoral students, scientific research, publication activity, and participation in the University's governing bodies.

2. General description of the scientific production.

In the competition for "Professor," Associate Professor Vanya Delibaltova participated with a total output of 97 papers, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications on the nomenclature specialty - 97 issues, of which:
 - Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - 6 issues, which are not subject to consideration;
 - Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for acquiring the academic position of "associate professor" - 50 publications that are not subject to consideration
 - Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for acquiring the academic position "professor" - 41 publications, with which he participated in the current competition

For the opinion preparation, 41 items, grouped as follows, are subject to analysis.

- Articles in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals indexed in the world-famous databases Scopus and/or Web of Science – 27 issues;
- 17 issues were published in quartile editions with impact factor and/or impact rank - indexed in the world-famous databases Scopus and/or Web of Science Core Collection.

- 10 issues have been published in peer-reviewed and referenced scientific journals indexed in Web of Science All databases.

An additional requirement for the academic position "Professor" is included in the rules of the AU for the implementation of Law for Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria according to protocol No. 4/16.11.2020 of the AU - The articles in the refereed and indexed journals of the world-famous databases with scientific information (with an impact factor (IF in the Web of Science Core Collection) or impact rank (SJR in Scopus) should not be less than 5. Associate Professor Delibaltova has fulfilled the requirement as 12 publications are IF in the Web of Science Core Collection and SJR in Scopus.

- 14 articles in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, as well as in conference proceedings – 14 issues

The personal participation of Prof. Vanya Delibaltova in the mentioned 41 works is illustrated by the fact that two are independent: 11 - is the first, 13 - is the second, 9 - is the third, and 6 - is the fourth author.

- Textbooks – 2 copies.
- Study guides - 2 copies.

The scientific production presented by Associate Professor V. Delibaltova exceeds in all indicators the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of professor in professional direction 6.1. Plant breeding, the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine.

3. Teaching activity.

The teaching experience of Assoc. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova is 21 years, two months, and 24 days spent in the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Prof. Delibaltova has given lectures and exercises to full-time and part-time students in the disciplines "Plant Breeding," "Medicinal Aromatic and Flavor Plants," "Cereals and Legumes," and "Fundamentals of Plant Breeding" in various undergraduate majors. She has also conducted lectures and exercises in several master's courses.

Academic employment of the candidate.

In the last five years (2018-2023), the candidate has performed 2558.25 hours (direct average annual classroom employment – 511.65 hours) under the guidance of Assoc. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova, 25 graduates have successfully defended their diplomas, 19 in the "Bachelor's College" and 6 in the "Master's College".

Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova supervised two PhD students who successfully defended their thesis at AU-Plovdiv.

Published study materials.

Associate Professor Delibaltova co-authors two textbooks on "Plant Breeding" and two manuals for exercises on "Plant Breeding."

Developed curricula.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has developed 10 study programs, of which eight are in the compulsory disciplines "Plant breeding," "Medicinal, aromatic and flavor plants," and in the optional disciplines "Introduction to plant breeding," "Medicinal aromatic and flavor plants" and "Medicinal, etheric- oil and flavor plants" for students of various majors and forms of study at the "Bachelor" OCS. For training, OCS "Master"

has developed 2 programs in the mandatory disciplines, "Biological Plant Breeding" and "Fundamentals of Plant Breeding".

4. Scientific research activity.

Areas of publication.

The scientific research of Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova is the result of the experimental work, which is in three main directions:

1. Study environmental conditions' influence on quantitative and qualitative indicators in cereal and essential oil crops.

2. Agrobiological study of different genotypes of essential oil (lavender and coriander), technical (sunflower and tobacco), grain-wheat, and grain-legume crops (wheat, triticale, corn, and soy).

3. Study of individual technological aspects in the cultivation of main field crops and specifically on:

- the influence of predecessors, fertilizing, time, and density of sowing on the elements of productivity, yield, and quality indicators in wheat, barley, triticale, corn, and coriander;

- control of weeds and their influence on productivity in coriander, wheat, and lavender; the impact of periodic water deficit on the content and yield of the main chemical components in soybean and corn;

- the influence of foliar treatment products on quantitative and qualitative indicators of coriander and lavender

- the accumulation of Pb, Cu, Zn, and Cd in sorghum, the possibilities of cultivation in soils contaminated with heavy metals, and the application for phytoremediation purposes.

Based on long-term scientific research and their results, Associate Professor Delibaltova formulated 5 scientific-theoretical and 11 scientific-applied contributions, which I fully accept.

Citation and referencing of scientific production.

The citations of the results of scientific research are proof of the recognition of Associate Professor Delibaltova at the national and international levels. 63 citations are presented. Of these, 50 issues in scientific publications were referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, with 25 issues in journals with an impact factor (total IF – 98.2; h-index - 4) and 13 issues in non-refereed journals with scientific reviewing. According to this indicator, Prof. Delibaltova collected 815 points, significantly exceeding the required 100 points.

An additional requirement for the academic position "Professor" is included in the rules of the AU for the implementation of Law for Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria according to protocol No. 4/16.11.2020 of the AU, namely: citations in the refereed and indexed journals of the world-famous databases with scientific information should not be less than 5, of those that have an impact factor (IF in Web of science Core Collection) or an impact rank (SJR in Scopus). Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova presented 38.

Participation in scientific projects.

Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has worked on various scientific projects. She participated in 2 national educational projects under the OP "Human Resources Development" and two research projects under the SSA. She headed an infrastructure

project at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv. Participates in implementing scientific tasks in the national "Intelligent plant breeding" program.

In addition to scientific and teaching activities, Associate Professor Delibaltova is actively involved in the various governing bodies of the Agrarian University-Plovdiv.

5. Notes and recommendations.

I have no comments or recommendations.

6. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the pedagogical, scientific, and scientific-applied activities of the candidate, I believe that she fully meets and significantly exceeds the requirements of the Law for Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulation for the Application of the Law for Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Agricultural University for its application. Prof. Delibaltova is a respected teacher and scientist with high professionalism and a significant contribution to science and practice in plant breeding.

All this gives me a reason to evaluate her overall activity positively.

I propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv to elect Assoc. Professor Vanya Delibaltova as "Professor" in the scientific specialty 6.1 Plant Breeding.

Date: 19.02.2024

Plovdiv

STATEMENT PREPARED BY: 

(Prof. Dr. Hristina Yancheva)