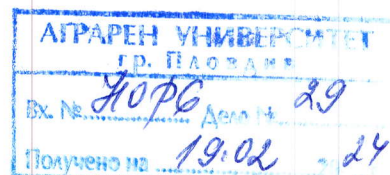


OPINION



regarding the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional area: 6.1. Crop Science announced in the State Gazette, issue № 99/28.11.2023 with an only candidate Assoc. Prof. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova, PhD

by Prof. Nurettin Tahsin Tahsin, PhD, in the professional area 6.1. Crop Science, scientific specialty *Crop Science*, appointed as a member of the scientific jury according Order № ПД 16-145/30.01.2024 of the Rector of the Agricultural University Plovdiv (AU Plovdiv).

1. Brief introduction of the candidate.

Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova graduated from the Higher Institute of Agriculture in 1992 acquiring a Master's degree in General Agronomy and Agriengineering. In the period 1998-2001 she was a full-time doctoral student at the Department of Crop Science, AU Plovdiv. In 2001 the candidate acquired the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor". Since 2002 she has occupied the academic positions of assistant professor, senior assistant professor and chief assistant professor. Since 2011 up to the present she has been occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" at the Crop Science Department. The main professional activities of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova is related with reading lectures and seminar classes to full-time and part-time Bachelor and Master students, supervising graduates and doctoral students, as well as conducting field experiments and publications with the obtained results.

2. General Description of the Scientific Production.

In the present competition regarding the academic position of "Professor" the candidate, Associate Professor Vanya Delibaltova, participates with a total production of scientific publications in the field of the nomenclature specialty – 97 in total, grouped as follows:

- Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" – 6 in total, which are not subject to review;
- Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the academic position of "Associate Professor" – 50 in total, which are not subject to review;
- Scientific publications covering the national minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the academic position of "**Professor**" – 41 in total, which are subject to review in the present competition;
- Publications with impact factor – 7 in total. Overall impact factor (IF) – 8.8;
- Publications in peer-reviewed and referenced scientific journals – 27 in total;
- Publications in conference collections – 14 in total.

The scientific publications for attaining the academic position of "Professor," which do not duplicate those submitted for obtaining the degrees of "Doctor" and "Associate Professor," are 41 in total and are grouped as follows:

* Research papers in referenced and indexed journals in world databases with scientific information – 10 in total (indicator B4). All of them are published in journals with Quartile and Sjr and/or Impact Factor. The total number of points in this category is 135.14 (100 points required), exceeding the minimum requirements for the academic position of "Professor";

- * Publications in referenced and indexed journals in world databases with scientific information – 17 in total, included in indicator Г7, which are calculated to 212.5 points.
- * Publications in non-referenced journals with scientific peer-review or published in editor collective volumes – 14 in total (indicator Г8) - 35 points.

The required points in total in indicator Г is 200. Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has accumulated **247,5** points in total.

The personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova in the mentioned 41 scientific works is obvious by the fact that 2 are independent, in 11 – the candidate is the first author, in 13 - the second author, in 9 - the third author, and in 6 - the fourth author.

The research papers of Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova are published in the following journals: Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science – 2, Journal of Agricultural Sciences (Yuzuncu Yil University) – 2, Romanian Agricultural Research – 1, Universal Journal of Agricultural Research – 1, Industrial Crops and Products – 1, European Journal of Horticultural Science – 1, Research Journal of Agricultural Science – 1, Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology – 1, Agronomy Research – 1, Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans – 5, Scientific works – Agricultural University – Plovdiv – 2, Agricultural sciences (Аграрни науки), AU – Plovdiv – 6, Scientific Papers Series A. Agronomy – 8, Journal for Research in Agricultural and Food Science – 2. There are 7 papers published in collections, of which 6 are from national scientific conferences with international participation, and 1 - from an international scientific conference.

A total of **41** scientific works are subject to analysis for the preparation of the opinion.

3. Teaching Activities.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova, PhD, has been practicing the teaching profession for over 21 years, all of which have been spent in the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. During this period, she has delivered lectures and practical exercises to full-time and part-time students in the following disciplines: "Crop Science", "Medicinal, Aromatic, and Culinary Plants", "Cereal and Legume Crops", "Fundamentals of Crop Science". She has taught in the following Bachelor's degree programs at AU-Plovdiv: General Agronomy (Crop Production), Viticulture and Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Ornamental Horticulture, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Plant Protection. In Agribusiness Master's program the lecturer has read lectures and practical exercises in the discipline "Crop Science". Additionally, in the Master's programs from other professional area organized by the Faculty of Agronomy she has taught the introductory module "Fundamentals of Crop Science".

Teaching work load of the candidate.

Over the last five years (2018-2023), the candidate has delivered a total of 2558.25 academic hours in lectures and seminars (average annual class work load – 511.65 academic hours).

In addition to her teaching activities, Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has supervised and successfully guided 25 graduates, including 19 Bachelor graduates and 6 Master graduates.

She has been an academic advisor of two doctoral students at AU-Plovdiv, which have successfully defended their dissertation works, acting as an individual supervisor for one and as a first co-supervisor for the other.

The candidate has co-authored 2 published textbooks and 2 teaching guides.

Developed syllabuses.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has developed a total of 10 syllabuses, including 8 for Bachelor's degree programs covering compulsory disciplines such as "Crop Science" and "Medicinal, Aromatic, and Culinary Plants" and elective disciplines such as "Introduction to Crop Science", "Medicinal, Aromatic, and Culinary Plants" and "Medicinal, Essential Oil and Culinary Plants" and 2 for Master's degree programs covering compulsory disciplines such as "Biological Crop Production" and "Fundamentals of Crop Science".

4. Research Activities.

Areas of Publication.

The research studies conducted by Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova, PhD, is a result of her experimental work carried out in three main directions:

1. Study on the influence of environmental conditions on the quantitative and qualitative indicators in cereal and essential oil crops.
2. Agrobiological study on various genotypes of essential oil crops (lavender and coriander), industrial crops (sunflower and tobacco), cereal crops, and leguminous crops (wheat, triticale, corn, and soybeans).
3. Study on specific technological aspects in the cultivation of major field crops, focusing on:
 - Research related to the impact of predecessor crops, fertilization, sowing time, and density on productivity elements, yield, and quality indicators in wheat, barley, triticale, corn, and coriander.
 - Research related to weed control and its impact on productivity in coriander, wheat, and lavender.
 - Research related to the influence of periodic water deficit on the content and yield of major chemical components in soybeans and corn.
 - Research related to the influence of foliar treatment products on quantitative and qualitative indicators in coriander and lavender.
 - Research on the accumulation of Pb, Cu, Zn, and Cd in sorghum and their potential for cultivation in heavy metal-contaminated soils, as well as their application for phytoremediation purposes.

The studies are methodically well-designed and conducted, and the results obtained are in-depth and discussed at a high scientific level.

6 theoretical and 11 applied scientific contributions have been formulated. They accurately reflect the results of the conducted research studies, therefore I fully accept the report prepared by the candidate.

Citations and reference of the scientific production.

The number of presented citations is 63 (excluding self-citations). Out of these, 50 are in scientific editions referenced and indexed in world databases – Scopus and Web of Science, with 26 in journals with impact factor (total IF – 98.2; h-index - 4) and 13 in non-referenced journals with scientific review. The required points for this indicator are 100, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Delibaltova has 815.

Participation in Scientific Projects.

Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has participated in one national scientific program "Intelligent Crop Production," 2 national educational projects under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development," and 2 research projects under the Scientific Research Fund. She has also been the leader of an infrastructural project at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

Participation in councils, governing bodies, committees, and scientific juries.

In the period 2016-2019, Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova, PhD, was a member of the Accreditation Commission. Since 2011 she has been a member of the Faculty Council, and since 2020, she has been a member of the Academic Council (Scientific Secretary), a member of the governing council of the Center for Scientific Research, Technology Transfer, and Intellectual Property Protection. She is also a member of the committee for verifying compliance of procedures with rules for academic staff development, a coordinator of the commission for verification of bibliometric indicators in the professional field: 6.1 Crop Production, a chairperson of the commission preparing the *Report - Self-assessment for the Accreditation of the Doctoral Program in Crop Production*.

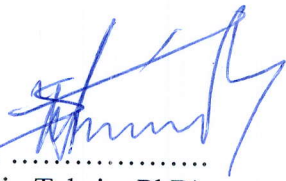
Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova has participated in scientific juries with 15 opinions – 12 for the academic position of "Associate Professor," 2 for the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor," and 1 for the scientific degree of "Doctor of Sciences".

5. Conclusion.

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, scientific, and scientific-applied activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Vanya Delibaltova, PhD, meets the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for its application (PAADASRB), as well as Regulations for nits application of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. The submitted materials are extensive and significantly exceed the bibliometric requirements for obtaining the academic position of "Professor." The research studies is relevant, done at a contemporary level, the obtained results thereof provide a basis for the candidate to present a substantial number of scientific and scientific-applied contributions and achievements in the field of crop production.

All of the above mentioned gives me grounds to evaluate **POSITIVELY** the overall activity of the candidate. I allow myself to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agronomy at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to appoint Assoc. Prof. Vanya Atanasova Delibaltova, PhD, at the academic position of "**Professor**" in the scientific specialty "**Crop Science**".

Date: 16.02.2024
Plovdiv

OPINION WORKED OUT BY: 
(Prof. Nurettin Tahsin, PhD)