



## OPINION

on the dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of  
Doctor.

**Field of higher education:** 3. Social, economic and legal sciences

**Professional field:** 3.8. Economics

**Scientific specialty:** Organization and management of production (agriculture) and sub-sectors

**Author of the dissertation:** Ana Dragoljub Milosevic, doctoral student at the Department of Management and Marketing at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

**Topic of the dissertation:** Comparative analysis of organic and conventional production in the Republic of Serbia with scientific supervisor Prof. Violeta Derimanova, PhD.

Prepared by: Prof. D.n. Dimitar Ivanov Kostov 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, 3.8. Economics appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order RD – 16 – 1176 of 17.11.2025

### 1. Relevance of the problem

The issue of organic development in agriculture is not only relevant, but also particularly important, both for the agricultural system and for the health of the population. This issue also has a social aspect.

The dissertation presents a comprehensive study of the differences, advantages and problems of organic agriculture compared to its conventional development.

The research was conducted in the period 2016-2025, covering the economic, environmental, social and health aspects of production systems and the health of the population. The problem under consideration is dissertable and of great scientific and applied significance.

The developed dissertation proposes comprehensive strategies that include education, regulations, market relations, as well as the commitments of consumers of organic agriculture in the Republic of Serbia. Analysis of the two production systems, presenting their advantages and disadvantages, is important for agriculture not only in the Republic of Serbia, but also in the entire

region of the Western Balkans, which have a common climatic and ecological system.

## **2. Purpose, tasks, hypotheses and methods of the study**

The purpose is very clear and specific. It is related to the advantages of organic over traditional agriculture.

The object of the study. It is indicated in the very title of the dissertation.

The tasks for achieving the goal are correctly selected and their solution in a certain sequence provides an opportunity for the full achievement of the set goal.

The information necessary for conducting the study includes a large volume of statistical information from state institutions and from literary sources. The main and most important part of it is based on the survey conducted.

The methods used are both traditional and modern, the most important of which is the author's questionnaire survey.

The thesis of the study is directly related to agricultural production and its aspects in both types - organic and traditional.

The hypotheses are arranged very well, so as to provide the opportunity for correct and specific conclusions, inferences and recommendations.

## **3. Visualization and presentation of the results**

The dissertation is developed in a classic form and is in a volume of 365 pages with 6 images, 81 tables, 41 diagrams and 24 graphs.

## **4. Discussion of the results and used literature**

At the beginning of the work, the fundamental challenges that arise from the interaction of man with the natural environment and specifically with agriculture are examined. These challenges are of great importance for human health and therefore considerable attention is paid to them.

In second place are the studies related to the economic, environmental and social aspects of organic and traditional production of agricultural products.

When analyzing the economic aspects, the author of the dissertation uses a comparative analysis in which he includes the main economic indicators and

proves that organic production is profitable and can be effective for the development of agriculture.

At the next stage of the development, the environmental aspects of both types of production are examined, as it has been proven that organic is very important for the environment and the protection of biodiversity and human health.

In addition to the economic and environmental aspects as an important prerequisite for the development of organic production, the author believes that social aspects are also of great importance. He draws attention to the indicators that are mainly related to human health. In this regard, the attention of the study is focused on the health benefits of consuming organic food and the improved nutritional profile.

In conclusion, this part of the development indicates the main practices that producers in organic production must use in order to offer organic food to the market.

In the last part of the dissertation, the doctoral student analyzes the information from both types of production in quite detail and compares it with the indicators of global trends. In this part of the development, the results of the study conducted personally by the author through questionnaire analysis are also analyzed.

The conclusion that the author makes based on the very well-executed analysis of the rich and significant amount of information and the results of his own research is summarized in indicating the nutritional and health benefits of organic production. The ecological and social advantages of organic production over traditional production are indicated.

An important contribution of the dissertation work are the recommendations made, which have both theoretical and practical significance.

In conclusion of the analysis of the work, I believe that the dissertation work presents a comprehensive comparative analysis of organic and traditional food production in the Republic of Serbia and this analysis is important both for the Balkan countries and on a global scale.

The literature used is competently analyzed and correctly cited.

## **5. Contributions of the dissertation work**

I accept the reference presented by the author for the scientific-theoretical and theoretical-practical contributions of the dissertation work.

## **6. Critical notes and questions**

Question: Does the state provide any preferences to organic food producers, which preferences would compensate for the higher costs in some cases and the lower yields from production.

## **7. Published articles and citations**

The doctoral student has published more than the required number of scientific articles, which are entirely related to the dissertation work. They are reviewed and reflected in the database of scientific research with world renown.

## **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation work presented by Ana Dragoljub Milošević is a fully completed scientific study with scientific and practical value. Based on the methods learned and applied by the doctoral student and the research and conclusions made, I believe that the presented dissertation work meets the requirements of the ZRASRB and the Regulations for its application, which gives me reason to evaluate it positively.

I would like to propose to the esteemed scientific jury to also vote positively and award Ana Dragoljub Milošević ONS a doctorate in the scientific specialty Organization and Management of Production (Agriculture and Sub-Industries).

30.11.2025

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