



OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” in the scientific specialty “**Economics and Management (Agriculture)**”, announced in State Gazette, issue 99 of 21.11.2025, with candidate **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev**

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boryana Ivanova**, Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Field of Higher Education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Professional Field 3.8 Economics, Scientific Specialty Economics and Management (Agriculture), appointed as a **member of the Scientific Jury** by Order No. RD 16-132 / 26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Dr. Dobri Mateev Dunchev is a Chief Assistant Professor at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, with research interests in agricultural economics, innovations in precision agriculture, and sustainable agricultural systems. He obtained his PhD degree with a dissertation entitled “Assessment of Innovative Technologies in Precision Agriculture.” He teaches courses such as Eco-economics, Environmental Economics, Innovations and Innovation Policy, Economics of Precision Agriculture, Business Administration, and Public Administration.

His scientific and project activities include participation in national and international research initiatives, including projects under the Erasmus+ programme, the National Science Fund, the European University Alliance UniGreen, and joint research with international partners in the fields of bioeconomy and climate change adaptation. He has an active publication record and has participated in prestigious scientific forums in Europe and Asia.

Prior to his academic career, he gained substantial international managerial experience in the United Kingdom in the field of agribusiness and human resource management, where he led large-scale teams and processes related to planning and organizing agricultural production.

His professional profile combines academic expertise, practical managerial experience, and international engagement in the development of innovative and sustainable agriculture.

2. General description of the scientific output

In the competition for “Associate Professor”, Chief Assistant Professor Dobri Dunchev participates with a total of 14 publications, grouped as follows:

❖ **Scientific publications in the relevant specialty – 12, including:**

- Publications related to the doctoral dissertation, **not subject to evaluation – 3**
- Publications **with impact factor – 5**
- Publications **in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals – 7**
- Publications in conference proceedings – none presented

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev to the 12 publications is demonstrated as follows: 3 are single-authored; in 4 he is first author; in 4 he is second author; and in 1 he is third or subsequent author.

- ❖ *Textbooks – none presented*
- ❖ *Study guides – none presented*
- ❖ **Monographs – 2**

A total of 11 publications is subject to evaluation in this opinion.

3. Teaching activity

According to the submitted documents, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev has 5 years and 10 months of teaching experience. As a member of the academic staff, Dr. Dunchev develops active teaching activities at both Bachelor's and Master's levels. He delivers lectures and seminars in the following disciplines:

- Eco-economics
- Environmental Economics
- Innovations and Innovation Policy
- Economics of Precision Agriculture
- Business Administration
- Public Administration
- Business Communications

He participates in the development and updating of curricula, applies modern teaching methods, and actively supervises graduate students.

For the period 2021–2026, his total teaching workload amounts to 3,745.2 hours, including courses taught in English, as well as courses delivered to Bachelor's and Master's students.

His teaching activity also includes the supervision of 14 successfully defended Bachelor's theses and 11 successfully defended Master's theses.

Published teaching materials

Regarding the competition, the candidate has not presented information on published teaching materials.

Developed curricula

Regarding the competition, the candidate has not presented information on developed curricula.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

The research work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dunchev focuses on the economic aspects of innovation in agriculture, the competitiveness of agricultural holdings, sustainable development, and the green transformation of the agricultural sector.

He is author and co-author of scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings. He participates in national and international research projects funded by the National Science Fund, the Erasmus+ programme, and other European initiatives, including within the European University Alliance UniGreen. Part of his research is related to the bioeconomy, climate change adaptation, and the implementation of precision technologies in agricultural practice.

Citation and referencing of scientific output

The materials submitted by the candidate indicate 16 citations of 4 articles co-authored by Dr. Dunchev. All citations are in journals with impact factor and/or impact ranking. This is a clear attestation of the quality of his scientific output and its international recognition. The presented citations generate 240 points in the candidate's scientometric indicators.

Participation in research projects

For the purposes of the competition, the candidate has presented participation in 3 international and 2 national projects. A review of the data shows that among the national projects, one is an internal university project. Since it does not have national status, the points in the scientometric table for project activity should be considered as 75 rather than 90.

Despite this technical error, it can be noted that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dunchev has participated in numerous international educational and research projects aimed at modernizing education and developing innovative curricula in the fields of precision agriculture and sustainable agricultural systems, which testify to the level of his expertise.

5. Remarks and recommendations

I have no remarks regarding the candidate.

I have one recommendation – consideration could be given to the preparation and publication of teaching materials for some of the disciplines that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dunchev regularly teaches.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's teaching, scientific, and applied research activities, I consider that **Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev meets the requirements** of the Academic Staff Development Act (ASDA), its Implementing Regulations, and the Rules of the Agricultural University for its application. The presented data clearly show that he exceeds the minimum national scientometric criteria.

All the above gives me grounds to **POSITIVELY** assess his overall activity.

I respectfully propose that the esteemed Scientific Jury vote positively and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv **elect Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev as "Associate Professor"** in the scientific specialty **"Economics and Management (Agriculture)"**.

24.02.2026
Plovdiv

Prepared by:


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