



## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty "**Economics and Management – Agriculture**", announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 99 of 21 November 2025, with candidate **Dobri Mateev Dunchev**

prepared by **Prof. DSc Petar Borisov Borisov**, appointed by Order No. RD-16-132/26.01.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv as Chair and member of the Scientific Jury

### 1. Brief Presentation of the Candidate

The candidate **Mr. Dobri Mateev Dunchev** holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and is a Chief Assistant Professor at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, with long-standing teaching and research experience in the fields of eco-economics, innovation, and precision agriculture. Alongside his academic career, he has over **15 years of managerial experience in the United Kingdom**, particularly in human resource management, strategic planning, and the management of large teams within the agricultural sector.

Mr. Dunchev has participated in numerous national and international research and educational projects, including projects funded under the **Erasmus+ programme**, as well as initiatives related to bioeconomy and sustainable development. He demonstrates a high level of organizational and communication skills, strong strategic thinking, and excellent proficiency in the English language.

### 2. General Description of the Scientific Output

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev participates with a total of **11 scientific works**, structured as follows:

- **7 publications** in scientific journals with an impact factor, indexed and abstracted in international scientific databases (**Scopus and Web of Science**);
- **2 publications** in peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in other international databases (other than Scopus and Web of Science);
- **1 monographic study**;
- **1 published book** based on a defended doctoral dissertation.

A total of **11 scientific publications** are subject to analysis and evaluation in the preparation of this opinion.

### 3. Evaluation of the Teaching Activity of the Candidate

Dr. Dobri Dunchev has been a lecturer at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv since **02 March 2020**. At the time of submitting his application for participation in the competition, he has accumulated **5 years and 10 months of teaching experience**. The certificate issued by the Agricultural University confirms that the candidate meets the minimum required teaching experience for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor.

During this period, the candidate's teaching workload significantly exceeds the minimum requirements. Over the past five years, he has delivered a total of **3,745.2 teaching hours**, corresponding to an average annual workload of approximately **749 hours**.

The candidate's teaching activity is further complemented by the successful supervision of **25 graduating students**, including **14 Bachelor's** and **11 Master's degree** graduates.

The submitted documentation does not indicate the publication of textbooks or teaching manuals, which is not a mandatory requirement for this competition. Instead, the candidate has provided a certificate issued by the Agricultural University (Ref. No. 21/15.12.2025), confirming his participation in **three educational projects** funded under the **Erasmus+ programme**, as a member of the project teams representing the University.

Over the past five years, Dr. Dunchev has completed a total of **four Erasmus+ mobility periods**, further demonstrating his active international academic engagement and professional reputation.

Based on the above, it can be reasonably concluded that the teaching activity of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev is of a **very high academic and professional standard**.

## **4. Research Activity**

### **4.1. Fields of Publication**

The candidate's scientific output is characterized by a clearly defined thematic coherence and a high level of scholarly depth in the field of agricultural economics and management, with a particular focus on precision and digital agriculture, innovation, and sustainable development. A central place in the candidate's research is occupied by analyses of the economic, technical, and environmental efficiency of innovative and precision technologies, as well as the possibilities for their practical implementation across various agricultural production systems.

A substantial share of the publications is devoted to the processes of innovation adoption and diffusion in agriculture, including conceptual models, institutional and economic barriers, the role of public policies, and the attitudes of agricultural producers. These studies are distinguished by their interdisciplinary character, integrating economic, managerial, technological, and social perspectives.

A consistently and independently developed research line in the candidate's work addresses the impact of climate change on agriculture and the potential of precision and digital technologies to support adaptation, mitigate negative effects, and enhance the resilience of agricultural systems. The analyses encompass both the global and European contexts (including the European Green Deal and climate policies), as well as specific national dimensions relevant to Bulgaria.

In addition, part of the scientific output examines socio-economic and labor-related aspects of the agricultural sector, including human resource management and the effects of institutional and structural changes on agricultural production. Overall, the candidate's scholarly work demonstrates a high degree of thematic integrity, relevance, and practical orientation and represents a meaningful contribution to the development of agriculture.

### **4.2. Citations and Indexing of the Scientific Output**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev has received **more than 120 citations and references** to scientific publications in which he is an author or co-author. This clearly indicates that his research work and resulting publications enjoy broad recognition and visibility within the scientific community.

#### 4.3. Participation in Scientific Projects

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev has participated in a total of **five scientific and/or educational projects**, funded by the **National Science Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science** and by European research programmes. In the official project participation record issued by the Agricultural University, one project has been omitted—namely, the **National Scientific Programme “Intelligent Crop Production”**, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, within which I personally collaborated with Dr. Dunchev.

It is evident that Dr. Dunchev’s project activity is of a high standard, enabling him to teach contemporary topics to students and to publish current and innovative scientific articles.

#### 5. Remarks and Recommendations

I am personally acquainted with Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Dunchev, which allows me—beyond the analysis of the submitted documentation—to conclude that he is a thorough scientific researcher and a capable university lecturer.

I have no critical remarks regarding either the candidate or his professional work. I would, however, encourage him to continue focusing closely on his established scientific interests in the future, as this would enable deeper engagement with issues related to the digitalization of agriculture and the development of innovations within the sector.

#### 6. Conclusion

Based on the conducted analysis of the candidate’s teaching, research, and applied scientific activities, I consider that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Dobri Mateev Dunchev fully meets the requirements of the **Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations**, and the **Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv**. The documentation submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor** demonstrates that he possesses all the necessary professional and academic qualifications. Therefore, I propose that the Scientific Jury evaluate him highly as a candidate for this position in the **Department of Economics** at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.

All of the above provides sufficient grounds for a **POSITIVE** overall evaluation of his professional activity. I respectfully recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury vote in favor of his candidacy and that the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Economics at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv elect **Mr. Dobri Mateev Dunchev** as **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty **“Economics and Management.”**

**Date:** 17 February 2026

**Place:** Plovdiv

  
Prepared by:  
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(Prof. DSc Petar Borisov Borisov)