

REVIEW

on the materials for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional field 6.1. Crop production, scientific specialty "Vegetable production", in the discipline "Vegetable production", announced by the University of Forestry in SG no. 32 of 3 April 2020 procedure code AsP - 0320 - 38.

Candidate for participation in the competition is:

1. Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Hristova Yordanova, Ph.D.

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Nikolay Dimitrov Panayotov, Agricultural University-Plovdiv, Department of Horticulture, Professor of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional field 6.1. Crop production, scientific specialty "Vegetable production"

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Hristova Yordanova, PhD, was born on September 11, 1967. During the period 1975-1985 he received secondary education from Higher school "Hristo Botev" in the town of Kubrat. She graduated in Viticulture and Horticulture at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv in 1992. In 1998 she received a Master's degree in Journalism from Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski". Since 1999 she has been an assistant at the University of Forestry and subsequently in 2003, she became a senior assistant, and in 2007 she is still now a chive assistant. During the period 2003-2009 she developed a doctoral dissertation and received the education and scientific degree "Doctor" in Vegetable Production. Her main professional activity is related to lectures, exercises and seminars, guides students in the development of term papers and diploma thesis, as well as the publication of teaching materials - textbooks, manuals and handbooks. Conducts classes in 6 disciplines in the field of vegetable production. At the same time che actively participates in the development of scientific projects and researching on their implementation. During the period September 2005 to February 2020 she

participated in 16 courses, most of which are directly related to her specific work and contribute to her professional growth. He speaks English at level B2 and C1. He points out that she has over 50 scientific and popular science articles, participation in over 10 scientific and scientific-educational projects. She is a member of the General Assembly of University of Forestry and the Faculty of Agronomy, as well as of the Faculty Council. She is a member of two international scientific organizations - ISHS and ISLE. She has good computer literacy.

2. Conformity of the presented documents and materials of the candidate with the required ones according to the Regulations for Rules for the development of the academic staff in University of Forestry.

From the presented documents it is evident that Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. M. Yordanova meets the criteria required in the Regulations for Rules for the development of the academic staff in the University of Forestry. The Thesis and articles to it, corresponding to 30 points, are presented. Criteria B is covered by a monograph - 100 points. Of the 200 points required by the G criteria, the participant in the competition presented articles and publications for 232.42 points, formed by 11 papers in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases and 23 in unreferenced editions. Her cited publications form 200 points, at the required 50. Even though that for an associate professor there is no need to meet criteria E, Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova has indicated materials with a total of points 204.7, which is an additional advantage. The total points of all its activities reached 787.12.

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate

Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, PhD, has given lectures and exercises in a large number of disciplines - 7, all in the field of Vegetable Production, in which the competition was announced. There is a classroom and extracurricular employment for each of the last 5 years over 500 hours. At the same time, it has developed curricula in seven subjects from the education schedule of the specialty of Agronomy and Plant Protection, as well as a module for distance learning in Mushrooming. Her teaching activity is supplemented by the scientific supervisor of 13 successfully finished graduates students. She has mentored six students under the Student Internships project. In addition to the above, she has participated as a co-author in the textbook Irrigation of vegetable crops and in two textbooks: Handbook of the entrepreneur in organic farming,

in the part Vegetable crops in organic farming and in the Utilization of biodegradable materials by composting.

4. Evaluation of the scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activity of the candidate

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova participates with 38 scientific papers. Of these, 34 are articles and reports, 11 are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information and 23 in non-referenced publications. She presented a monograph on "Composting vegetable waste". In connection with getting this academic position, it is important to emphasize that the candidate has participated in the writing of educational literature - one textbook and two teaching aids.

Her scientific activity is related to the research of various aspects of technological nature in a large number of vegetable crops: broccoli, cabbage, beetroot, zucchini, pepper, leek, lettuce and others. The main focus of the study covers multilateral research on composting and the impact of compost on the development of vegetable crops. In this direction, a several of experiments with microbiological and physiological nature have been performed, as well as in connection with the influence of compost on the manifestation of various soil pathogens and weeding. This significantly complements the scientific information on a relatively poorly studied problem. It should be noted that the textbooks are in this direction as well. Given that the scientific literature in this area is quite limited, this further enhances the importance of the scientific work performed. Studies have also been conducted on the effect of various organic mulching materials used in the cultivation of vegetable crops. Another aspect of the research is focused on organic vegetable production, also a still poorly researched and new field. Research has also been conducted in the field of urban gardening.

4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova has participated in 11 national projects, 10 scientific and 1 educational. Most are funded by the Scientific Center at the University of Forestry and one by the National Research Fund and one by the GEF (Global Environmental Facility). He also participates in an international research project at INPI (International Institute of Plant Nutrition). It should be emphasized that these are significant research projects, which has helped to develop very active research and

respectively publishing activities.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results

It is evident from the published materials that a significant amount of research work has been carried out with very good and high scientific value. Most of the presented publications are the result of previously performed experiments. Some of them have an overview character. In most publications, the results of these experiments are presented in tables or the form of figures and are interpreted correctly with appropriate scientific terminology and style. The articles ended with conclusions that correspond to the results obtained and their discussion and outline the identified trends, while making appropriate recommendations. In some publications, appropriate methods of statistical processing are applied depending on their nature. The main part of the publications is related to a large set of studies of various composts in several very important aspects in this field, and outlines suitable opportunities for their application in the cultivation of vegetable crops. The requirements for this type of scientific work have been met during the preparation of the articles. The presented monograph is also related to composting and is very well developed, and in addition to an overview there is also an experimental part. In summary, it can be pointed out that the problems posed in the publications are significant for modern vegetable production and they are written in a strictly scientific style and graphically well prepared.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citation)

In the presented materials ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova points out that six of her articles are cited in other scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases or monographs. One of the articles has been cited six times and another three times by various authors. All citations are from foreign researchers in prestigious journals or conference proceedings. This shows that the scientific activity of the candidate is recognizable in the world scientific community. On the other hand, it is evident that the problems that she studies have their significance not only for our country but also worldwide. In this sense, her scientific output has its influence and reflection in the specialized literature.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

I accept the fully prepared report on the contributions of Dr. Yordanova. They are divided into three groups: scientific (7 pieces), scientific-applied (12 pieces) and applied (9 pieces) contributions. I will allow myself to point out the more significant ones in the separate groups:

Scientific contributions:

1. A hypothesis about the possibility of aerobic composting of vegetable waste in an urban environment has been formulated.
2. It was found that the factors most strongly influenced by composting are the ratio of C / N in the starting materials, as well as the achievement of optimal temperatures in the thermophilic phase.

Scientific - applied contributions:

1. An increase in soil fertility has been found as a result of increased microbiological activity when applying to mulch.
2. Possibilities for composting in small scale family farms have been studied, and various bioindicators for establishing the phases of compost development have been studied.

Applied contributions:

1. It is recommended that compost from frostbitten plant residues, which has an alkaline reaction, be used to improve the soil and not as organic fertilizer.
2. It is argued that the vegetable waste compost from urban environments is suitable for use in seedling production.

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

The performed experiments and published articles are with the personal active participation of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova. Confirmation of this is the fact that in 15 publications out of a total of 38 she is the first author. The monograph presented by her is also an independent scientific work, personally developed by the author. The articles show the characteristic style of the candidate, which once again testifies to her participation or independent experimentation and publication of the results.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no significant remarks regarding the materials submitted for participation in the competition. I can mention that I think it would be more appropriate for contributions 6 and 7 of the Scientific Contributions section to be directed to scientific-applied ones, and contribution 3 of this group to be presented in Scientific Contributions.

I would recommend to Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Yordanova when discussing the results obtained and formulating the conclusions to emphasize more firmly on the biological aspects and changes of the tested vegetable crops. Also, if possible, to apply purposefully the statistical methods to highlight the trends, as well as to publish more articles in renowned scientific journals. It is appropriate to strengthen its participation in conducting classes in master's programs

All this in no way diminishes the high merits of her teaching and research activities but is directed with the best intentions to serve her in her future work.

7. Personal impressions

I know Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, Ph.D., as a student. Most of my impressions, however, are from her work as a lecturer and scientist at the University of Forestry. I can emphasize that it is recognizable and known in the scientific community with a clear profile and directions of research. My impressions of her are as a very active and well-built researcher, able to pose and solve modern problems of vegetable production.

8. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the teaching, the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate, I believe that Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Hristova Yordanova, Ph.D., meets the requirements of The Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, Regulations for application of the law for the development of the academic staff in Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Forestry for its application.

The provided materials speak of a versatile scientific work, which is characterized by depth and precision and presents it as a built researcher.

All this gives me a reason to evaluate POSITIVELY its entire activity.

I allow myself to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury also to vote positively for the award of the scientific title "Associate Professor" to Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Hristova Yordanova, Ph.D., in the scientific specialty Vegetable Production.

Based on this, I propose the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Vegetable Production" from Professional field 6.1. Plant growing.

Signature of Reviewer

Review submitted to: 20.07.2020.

