

## OPINION

on the materials for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural science and veterinary medicine , Professional Field 6.1. Plant growing, Scientific Specialty „Vegetable growing“, Discipline „Vegetable growing,, announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette vol. 32/3.4.2020 г., procedure code AsP –0320-38 .

### **Candidates for the competition are:**

**Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova**

**Opinion written by: Dr. Christopher Kirchev Kirchev**, professor in Professional Field: Plant Growing from the Agricultural University - Plovdiv

### **1. Brief biographical data about the candidate**

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova was born in Kubrat, where she graduated from Hristo Botev High School. From 1986 to 1992 she was a student at the Higher Agricultural Institute (now the Agricultural University) - Plovdiv, Faculty of Viticulture and Horticulture, specialty Viticulture and Horticulture, graduating with an average grade from the exams in the course of study - Very Good 4,61 and a grade in the state exam Very Good 4,75 with the qualification of Engineer-Agronomist. She studied for a master's degree at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Journalism, where in 1998 she obtained a master's degree in Journalism. In 1999, after a competition, she was appointed as an assistant at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy. In 2003 she acquired the title of Senior Assistant, and since 2007 she has been Chief Assistant. In parallel with her work as a lecturer at the University of Forestry, in 2009 she defended her dissertation on the scientific specialty "Vegetable growing" and received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

### **2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the requirements according to the Regulations of Academic Staff Development (RASD) at the University of Forestry (UF);**

The submitted data sheet for compliance of the scientific achievements grouped by indicators of the candidate with the minimum national requirements under art.2b of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and art. 2a, para. 1 of RASD at the University of Forestry shows that for the two groups of indicators, respectively A (50 points) and C (100 points), they cover the exact number of points required for these groups of indicators.. For the groups of indicators D (200 points) and E (50 points) the candidate exceeds the required points by 32.42 points in group D and by 150 points in group E. Although according to the minimum national requirements under art. 2b of the DASRBA and art. 2a, para. 1 of the RASD at the UF for awarding the academic position of Associate Professor no points are required for the group of indicators F, the candidate has submitted materials covering 204.7 points for the group of indicators F.

### **3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate**

The teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova includes:

3.1. Auditorium activities (lectures and seminars) by discipline:

3.1.1. "Vegetable growing" with students from bachelor's degree program in Agronomy and Plant Protection full-time and part-time education, as well as a preparatory course for master's degree students.



3.1.2. "Mushroom growing" with students from bachelor's degree program in Agronomy and Plant Protection full-time and part-time education.

3.1.3. "Greenhouse vegetable growing" with students from bachelor's degree program in Agronomy and Plant Protection full-time and part-time education.

3.1.4. "Rare vegetable crops" with students from bachelor's degree program in Agronomy and Plant Protection full-time and part-time education

3.1.5. "Introduction to Organic Agriculture" with students from bachelor's degree program in Agronomy and Plant Protection full-time and part-time education

3.1.6. "Technologies in vegetable production" with students from the master's degree program in Horticulture and viticulture, full-time and part-time education.

3.2. Extra-auditorium activities

3.2.1. Conducting semester exams for students.

3.2.2. Supervision of 13 graduates who successfully defended their theses.

3.2.3. Reviews of 14 successfully defended theses.

3.3. Development of new curricula

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

##### **4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects**

4.1.1. As an academic mentor in project BG05M2OP001-2.002-0001 "Student Internships - Phase 1", Funding organization: Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth", co-financed by the European Structural and Innovation Funds. Period: 2014-2020.

4.1.2. As a member of the team in the current project "Study of environmental and agro-technological aspects of growing agricultural products in aggravated urban environment", Head: Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Tsvetkova, funded by SRS-UF, 2019-2020.,

4.1.3. As a member of the team in the project "Bio-and energy potential of non-traditional plant species" Head: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Nikolova. Funding organization: Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science. Period 2007-2009.

4.1.4. As a member of the team in the project "Study of the impact of biochar on soil fertility and crop development" Head: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vera Petrova. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2017-2018.

4.1.5. As a member of the team in the project "Comparative study of different types of compost to determine the phases of composting, the quality of compost and methods of application." Leader: Prof. Dr. Maya Nustorova. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2016-2017.

4.1.6. As a member of the team in the project "Response to abiotic stress factors in different salads (*Lactuca sativa* L.) var. romana and var. capitata in the Sofia field." Head: Prof. Dr. Nidal Shaban. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2016-2017.

4.1.7. As a member of the team in the project "Migration of nitrates in the soil in the conditions of fertigation under backgrounds with mineral and organic fertilization of vegetables" Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Veselin Kutev. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2017-2018.

4.1.8. As a member of the team in the project "Increasing the capacity of local authorities to manage biodegradable waste and reducing the carbon footprint - a pilot model for recovery of biodegradable waste in the municipality of Dobrich." Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Todorova. Funded by GEF. Period: 2011-2013.

4.1.9. As a member of the team in the project "Energy and water saving technologies for the production of competitive agricultural products" Head: Assoc. Prof. Spaska Kalcheva. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2009-2011.

4.1.10. As a member of the team in the project "Assessment of the energy potential of the territories of the forest fund in the region of Northeast Bulgaria" Head: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi



Kostov. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2008-2010.

4.1.11. As a member of the team in the project "Study of the influence of different types of soil coatings on the agrochemical properties of the soil in the cultivation of broccoli for late field production." Leaders: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Margarita Nikolova and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nidal Shaban. Funding organization: University of Forestry. Period: 2004-2006.

4.1.12. As a member of the team in the project "Good practices for sustainable management of crop nutrition in Bulgaria" (BMPSCN). Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Nikolova. Funding organization: International Institute of Plant Nutrition (IPNI). Period: 2008-2012

#### **4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results**

For participation in the competition for Associate Professor in the discipline "Vegetable growing" announced by the University of Forestry in SG vol. 32/3.4.2020 г. the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova presents a total of 38 scientific publications, of which: Monograph - 1. Articles and papers - 34 (of which 11 are published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in databases worldwide with scientific information; 23 are published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collections of papers), published university textbook or textbook used in schools – 1, and published university handbook or handbook used in schools - 2.

#### **4.3. Impact of scientific activity of the candidate in literature (citation)**

For participation in the competition for Associate Professor in the discipline "Vegetable growing" announced by the University of Forestry in SG no. 32/3.4.2020, the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, PhD, presents 14 citations, of which:

4.3.1. Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 12.

4.3.2. Cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 2.

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

The submitted data sheet for the contributions in the works of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova includes: Scientific contributions - 7; Scientific and applied contributions - 12 and Applied contributions - 9.

#### **5. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution**

The personal contribution in the works of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova is illustrated by the fact that in 5 of the works she is an independent author, in 15 with one co-author, in 9 with two co-authors and in 9 with three or more co-authors.

#### **6. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I do not have any.

#### **7. Personal impressions**

My personal impressions of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova are completely positive.

#### **8. Conclusion**

The analysis of the teaching and research activity shows that Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova meets the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, The Regulations for Application of the the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the University of Forestry for its application. She is the author of a monograph, author and co-author of scientific publications. She is a co-author of textbooks and manuals.

**I PROPOSE that the candidate** Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Milena Yordanova **be approved to assume the academic position "Associate Professor"** in the discipline „Vegetable growing“ of the Professional Field 6.1. Plant growing

The opinion is written by:

