

OPINION

on the materials for competition on academic position "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. 32/3.4.2020, procedure code AVM - AsP -0320-38.

Applicants to the competition are:

1. Chief Assist. Dr. Milena Hristova Jordanova

Prepared by: PhD Antoniya Koleva Stoyanova, Assoc. Prof. – Professional field 6.1 Crop production, scientific specialty "Land reclamation (including soil erosion and its control)", Trakia University, Faculty of Agriculture, Stara Zagora.

1. Brief applicant's biographical data

Chief Assistant Dr. Milena Hristova Yordanova was born in 1967. He graduated from the Higher Agricultural Institute (now the Agricultural University), Faculty of Viticulture, Plovdiv in 1992. In 1998 he acquired additional qualification at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", graduating as a journalist. Since 1999 he has been at the University of Forestry, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy, where as an assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant he conducts classes, develops and publishes teaching materials (textbooks, guides, manuals, etc.), participates in research projects, in conducting research and public presentation of their results. He leads lecture courses for the disciplines "Vegetable Production", "Greenhouse Vegetable Production", "Mushroom Production", "Rare Vegetable Crops", "Introduction to Organic Farming" and "Technologies in Vegetable Production". In 2009 he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the basis of a dissertation "Biological studies of the effects of mulch in the cultivation of broccoli - Brassica oleracea var. italic Plenck. "in the scientific specialty" Vegetable Production". He has participated in a number of projects and courses related to the development of curriculum, plans and programs related to the system of accumulation and transfer of loans, Web technologies, methods and systems for e-learning, Geoff Lawton's Permaculture Design Course, Rain Bird Academy training session for professional irrigation systems = Irrigation systems - Level 1. Member of the General Assembly of the University of Forestry, the General Assembly of the Faculty of Agriculture, as well as the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture.

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant (s) in accordance with the Regulations of Academic Staff Development (RASD) at the University of Forestry

Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Yordanova, PhD, presents a full set of documents required by the Rules for RAS in LTU, both on paper and electronically (CD). All required documents are precisely prepared and each has the relevant annexes with evidence.

For participation in the competition for "associate professor" the candidate presents 38 scientific papers. These include: 1 monograph 2020 "Composting of vegetable waste", ISBN: 978-619-7554-08-3; 4 publications covering the minimum scientometric indicators for the dissertation. Electronic textbook - 1, university textbook, printed on electronic media -2. The number of published articles and reports is 34.

According to the attached reference, the candidate covers the minimum required points for the groups of indicators from the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry, district 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.1 Plant Breeding,

as follows:

Indicator A: Dissertation work for awarding ONS "Doctor", defended in 2009 - 50 points;

Indicator B: Habilitation work - monograph "Composting of vegetable waste", ISBN: 978-619-7554-08-3 - 100 points;

Indicator C: The number of points on this indicator is 232.42 and exceeds the required (200) points. The points were obtained on the basis of eleven (11) articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 116 points; 23 (twenty-three) articles and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes 116.42 points.

Indicator D: This indicator presents 200 points, supported by evidence - Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 180 points, citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 20 points.

Indicator E: No points are required for an "associate professor" on this indicator, but the candidate has 204.7 points, received from participation in national and international, scientific and educational projects, as well as from the publication of university textbooks.

As a result of the submitted documents, the candidate has a total number of points on all indicators 787.12 points for the required - 400.

3. Assessment of the applicant's Teaching Activity

From the submitted documentation it is established that as of June 2020 the candidate has 20 years and 7 months of teaching experience at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Forestry. Participates in the training of students in the disciplines "Vegetable production", "Mushroom production", "Greenhouse production", "Rare vegetable crops", "Introduction to Organic Agriculture" and "Vegetable production technologies".

There are published 1 university textbook and 2 teaching aids that are used in the school network. Under the guidance of Dr. Yordanova, 13 diploma theses in the specialty "Agronomy" and "Plant Protection" have been developed and successfully defended. All this proves the responsible and professional attitude to the teaching work and characterizes the candidate as an excellently prepared teacher.

4. Assessment of the applicant's scientific, applied and publication activities

The publishing activity covers 38 published editions, of which 1 monograph, 3 textbooks and 34 is the number of scientific publications. There are 11 published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, and 23 published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective papers. 19 have been published in Bulgarian and 19 in a foreign language. The independent publications are 5, with one co-author are 15, with two and more are 18. The scientific publications reveal the specific competencies and skills of the candidate to interpret the scientific results.

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and education projects

Chief Assistant Milena Yordanova participates as a member of the teams in 11 national scientific and/or educational projects, as well as in 1 international scientific and educational project. The participation of the candidate shows that he is a sought-after specialist because of his good communication skills and good teamwork.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

Emphasis in scientific publications in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases (Scopus and Web of Science) is the scientific results obtained by studying the influence of mulch in different vegetable crops (7.1, 7.8, 7.9). Problems related to mulching are presented in other publications (8.8, 8.9,

8.10, 8.13, 8.18, 8.19, 8.22).

The influence of microbiological activity and the possibilities for composting have also been discussed in several articles in different crops (7.3, 7.5, 7.6, 7.11, 8.7, 8.11). The influence of abiotic factors, weeding and the size of the irrigation rate in a number of crops are the subject of scientific research (7.4, 7.10, 8.5, 8.6, 8.12, 8.14, 8.15, 8.16, 8.17). In the search for alternative crops for biofuels have also made important technological solutions.

4.3. Candidate's Scientific Activity in the Literature (Citation)

The candidate has presented 5 scientific papers, cited in 12 referenced and indexed scientific journals, in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes. An article is cited, cited in two collective volumes with scientific review. These quotations show the interest in the topic and the scientific results of the candidate. When analyzing the provided reference, no auto-citations were found.

4.4. Contributions in the Candidate's Publications (Scientific, Scientific and Applied, Applied)

The main *scientific contributions* are related to the aerobic composting of plant waste and in particular vegetable waste. The influence of various abiotic factors, duration, and composition of the plant material was studied. The importance of organic mulching materials as well as their influence on crop productivity was studied (3.1, 7.8, 8.10, 8.13, 8.18). The technology of growing 12 varieties of lettuce has been updated (7.2, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9).

Scientific and applied contributions. 12 contributions with scientific application are indicated. The application of leached plant residues, such as compost. The composting process at different starting materials and volume, as well as the possibilities for small-scale composting in small mixed farms (3.1, 7.3, 7.6, 7.11, 8.7) have been studied. The positive influence of organic soil coverings (mulches) on the suppression of a number of weeds developing in the agrocenoses of different vegetable species (7.1, 7.9, 8.8, 8.19) has been established. The effectiveness of mulching and the effectiveness of soil herbicides in growing vegetables have been studied.

Applied contributions. It has been found that compost from leached vegetative vegetable waste has an alkaline pH and a lower content of macronutrients, which gives grounds to recommend its use as a soil improver and not as an organic fertilizer (3.1). The application of composted vegetable waste is recommended depending on their composition and method of composting (7.8, 8.8, 8.9). The positive effect of mulching materials on weeding, soil temperature and crop productivity (7.1, 7.9, 8.3).

5. Assessment of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The candidate's participation in various research and teaching materials shows that he is an ambitious and responsible teacher with extensive experience, knowledge and commitment to innovative learning approaches. I believe that the candidate's contributions are her work and correspond to the theme of the competition.

The achieved results show systematization, organization and perseverance in the development and solution of problems related to the acquired competencies.

6. Critical Notes and Recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the evidence presented. In my opinion, the presented list of evidence shows a serious burden on the candidate. However, he participates in these projects only as a member of the team.

Given the accumulated experience, it is good to develop independent research projects with which to continue the research in the highlights of the current research and applied activity.

The importance of the results of scientific research, in my opinion, predetermines their publication in refereed and indexed scientific journals.


7. Personal Impressions

I do not know the candidate personally, but looking at the whole set of evidence, I am left with the impression of an erudite, demanding, ethical and responsible person, teacher and researcher.

8. Conclusion

The analysis of the teaching and research, research and applied activity of the candidate Chief Assistant Prof. PhD Milena Yordanova shows that this is a well-established scientist and established lecturer.

The scientific and applied contributions, scientific publications and achievements fully meet the requirements of the law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the rules for its application in the Regulations of RAS in LTU for acquiring the academic position "**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**". Based on this analysis, I propose the candidate **Ch. Assistant PhD Milena Hristova** to be chosen for occupation of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Vegetable Production" from Professional field 6.1. Plant growing.



Member of Scientific Jur:
(Assoc. Prof. PhD A. Stoyanova)

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