

REVIEW

Of the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in professional field - 6.2 Plant Protection, scientific specialty Plant Protection (Biological Plant Protection) announced in SG. 27 / 02.04.2021, with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Yordanov Dochev

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Veselin Alexandrov Arnaudov from the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski", Professional field 6.2 Plant Protection (entomology and phytopathology), appointed by the Rector of the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" Order № RD-16-090 / 25.05.2021 as an internal member of the scientific jury and appointed reviewer at the first meeting of the jury, held on 11.06.2021.

In the academic competition for rank – professor, announced in SG, issue 27 / 02.04.2021 from the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" for holding the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty Plant Protection (Biological Plant Protection) with the only candidate being Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Yordanov Dochev from the Agricultural Institute from the town of Shumen. The documentation for the competition has been prepared and presented on paper and electronic media in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its application at the University of Shumen "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski".

Brief biographical data and career development

Associate Professor, Dr. Veselin Dochev was born on May 18, 1966 in Shumen. In 1992 he graduated from the Higher Agricultural Institute - Plovdiv, majoring in "Field Breeding", where he obtained a master's degree in agricultural engineering. In 1999, after winning a competition, he was appointed as an assistant at Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov Chiflik" - Ruse. From 1999 to 2014 he successively held the academic position of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant. In 2014, after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic: "Influence of the climatic conditions of Northeastern Bulgaria on the biological and economic qualities of common winter wheat varieties (*Triticum aestivum* L.)" he received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". Since 2014 he has been an Associate Professor at the Obraztsov Chiflik AISS - Ruse, and in 2018, after a competition, he held the academic position of Associate Professor at the Agricultural Institute - Shumen, where he continues to work until now.

Good command of the English, French and Russian languages, both written and spoken as well as working with Microsoft - Windows, Word, Exel.

The main activity of the candidate is scientific research and applied scientific research. He works in the field of organic and conventional agriculture, mainly on the creation of new agro-technical

guidelines for the production of agricultural crops and their selection. He is a co-author of two Bulgarian varieties of winter wheat - "Venka1" and "Dunavia".

In the period 2009-2013, he worked as a part-time lecturer at the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev", majoring in "Agricultural Engineering and Plant Breeding", where he lectured and exercised in the disciplines: "Breeding and Seed Production", "Genetics", "Agrometeorology", " Plant Growing "and" Perennials ", total hours - 960 hours.

He is the mentor of 6 successfully defended graduates.

He has trained farmers and specialists in the key competence "Public and civic competences" on "Organic Agriculture" - 30 hours.

He has participated in the development and implementation of 1 international project; he is the leader of 2 and participant in 4 research projects at the SSA; He is a leader and participant in 2 research projects at the University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev".

He has carried out three outgoing mobility's under the Erasmus + Program, 1 in order to teach in the Republic of Northern Macedonia in 2020. and 2 - for the purpose of training in Romania and the Czech Republic, respectively in 2018 and 2019.

He is a member of a scientific jury in 7 procedures. He is a reviewer of 2 scientific reports, 7 scientific articles, 6 scientific projects, 8 curricula and 7 diploma projects. He participated in the staff of the Expert Commissions at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for inspection of areas with agricultural crops in the period 2014-2021.

From the presented documents characterizing the career development of the candidate for professor, I can make the general conclusion that he meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria ZRASRB, the Regulations for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of Shumen University for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria, related to qualification, work and experience for holding the academic position of professor.

Comparison of the minimum national requirements with the results of the scientific activity of the candidate for acquiring the academic position "Professor"

From the presented documents characterizing the career development of the candidate for professor, I can make the general conclusion that he meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Shumen for application of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria (PPRASRB), related to qualification, work and experience for holding the academic position of professor.

The reference presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Dochev on the implementation of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" in PF 6.2 "Plant Protection" shows that based on the percentage participation of the authors of published scientific papers and research activity of the candidate for the academic position "Professor" at a required minimum of 550, he has 921.37 points, which in this case means that he meets the minimum national requirements.

Distribution of heels by group of indicators.

Group of indicators	Indicator	Number of points according to the national minimum requirements	Number of points of the candidate
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 and 4	100	140.71
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 12	200	200.66
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 15	100	420
F	Sum of indicators from 16 to 24	100	110
Total number of points		550	921.37

The analysis of the reference submitted by the candidate for the implementation of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Professor" in PF 6.2 "Plant Protection" shows that it is filled in incorrectly. In item 4 of indicator "B" the candidate presents 10 publications equivalent to monographic scientific work in publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, of which only 6 meet the requirements of this indicator (with a minimum of 10). Four of the publications (№ 1, 2, 3, and 6) do not meet the requirements for inclusion in this section. Item 7 of indicator "D" lists 6 publications, 4 of which (№ 2, 4, 5 and 6) are in print (with a required minimum being 10% of the total number of publications, in this case 3) as only for the last 3, official notes are presented. In item 13 and item 15 of indicator "E" are presented, respectively 20 and 24 citations of the candidate's publications, of which, respectively 9 and 8 are auto-cited. If an adjustment is made in the reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements it becomes clear that according to indicator "B" item 4 the number of publications falls from 10 to 6 (with required number 10), according to indicator "D" item 7 the number of publications and the points are not reduced, but 4 (12.9%) of the publications are in print (with a required minimum of 10% of the total number of publications, in this case 3), and according to indicator "E" item 13 and item 15, the total the number of points is significantly reduced.

From the comparison made of the minimum national requirements with the results of the scientific activity of the candidate for the academic position "Professor", I can make the general conclusion that he does not meet the minimum national requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of Shumen University for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position "Professor" in PF 6.2 Plant Protection.

General description of the presented materials

Candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesselin Dochev participates in the competition for "Professor" with a total scientific output of 67 scientific papers, which are divided as follows:

- ❖ Scientific works related to the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" - 4 copies (abstract and 3 scientific publications that are not subject to peer review);
- ❖ Scientific works related to the habilitation of the rank "Professor" - 32 pieces that are not eligible for reviewing;
- ❖ Scientific works listed for the competition for the rank "Professor" - 31 pieces, including 10 equivalent to monographic scientific works in publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information.

Of these 31 scientific works, all are presented in full text, with the exception of work № 29, as 16 (54.84%) of them are published, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases and 15 (45.16%) in non-refereed publications with scientific review, 16 of the scientific works are in English, 8 in Bulgarian and 7 - bilingually, in Bulgarian and in English. 4 (12.9%) of the scientific works are in print (with a minimum being 10% of the total number of publications required, in case 3).

These works are grouped as follows:

- ❖ **Scientific works in scientific journals with impact factor and impact rank - 0 works**
- ❖ **Scientific works in international journals without impact factor and impact rank - 9 works**
 - Work № 2 in *International journal of current research* - 1 work
 - Works № 10 and 19 in *ISB-INMA TEH Agricultural and mechanical engineering* - 2 works
 - Works № 17, 23, 24, 25 and 29 in *Proceedings ECOLOGICA, Belgrade* - 5 works
 - Work № 31 in *Annals of the University of Craiova-Agriculture, Montanology, Cadastre Series*
- ❖ **Scientific works in Bulgarian journals without impact factor and impact rank – 15 works**
 - Works № 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 - *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans* - 7 works
 - Works № 13, 14 and 15 - *Acta Scientifica Naturalis* – 3 works
 - Works № 16 - *Agricultural, Forest and Transport Machinery and Tehnologies* - 1 work
 - Work № 12 - *Agricultural Sciences* - 1 work
 - Works № 20, 21 and 22 - *Notice of the Union of Scientists - Ruse* - 3 works
- ❖ **Scientific works in collections of international scientific forums - 2 works**
 - Work № 1 - *Proceedings Proc. of the 5th International Conference, Lozenec, Bulgaria, 24-28 June, 2015* - 1 work
 - Work № 7 - *Proceedings Proc. of the 19th International Conference, Lozenec, Bulgaria, 12-15, June, 2019* - 1 work
- ❖ **Scientific works in collections of national scientific forums - 5 works**
 - Works № 26, 27 and 30 - *Scientific papers of the University of Ruse - Proceedings* 3 works
 - Work № 18 - *National conference with international participation "Biological Plant Breeding, Animal Husbandry and Food "* - 2014 - 1 work
 - Work Paper № 28 - *National Conference with International Participation " Biological Plant Breeding, Animal Husbandry and Food "* - 2015 - 1 work

Scientific articles have been published in Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals, in Scientific Papers and Proceedings from national and international conferences such as: *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans, Agricultural science; Acta Scientifica Naturalis, International journal of current research, Journal of Agricultural and mechanical engineering*, etc.

The personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dochev in these 31 scientific papers is illustrated by the fact that 4 (12.9%) are independent, in 5 (16.2%) is first, in 5 (16.2%) - second, and in the remaining 17 (54.7%) - is third, fourth, etc. author. The candidate is the first or only author in only 9 scientific papers, which is indicative of the fact that his personal participation in the developed problems, the analysis of the obtained results and their publication in prestigious publications is not leading.

Reflection of the scientific publications in literature

Assoc. Prof. Dochev has presented 47 citations of 24 scientific papers in which he is an author or co-author. Of these, due to hidden self-citation, I accept only 30 citations of 19 scientific papers. I do not accept citations: № 2 and 3 of publication 1.1.; № 2 and 4 of publication 1.2.; №1, 3 and 4 of publication 2.1.; № 1 and 2 of publication 2.2.; № 1 of publication 2.11; № 1 and 2 of publication 3.1.; № 1 of publication 3.3.; № 1 and 2 of publication 3.4. and № 1 and 2 of publication 3.5. from the list of citations. The scientific papers have been published as follows: in Bulgarian and foreign journals with impact factor - 7; in international magazines without impact factor - 11; in Bulgarian scientific journals without impact factor - 12. The total impact factor and impact rank for citations is IF - 1.626; SJR - 2,123.

Main directions in the research work of the candidate.

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Dochev is in the field of organic and conventional agriculture and is aimed at the following areas:

Study of biological and economic characteristics and elements of agricultural techniques of some field crops grown in non-traditional (organic) agriculture.

Study of the influence of some bio-dynamic preparations, applied alone or in combination with each other in different phases of wheat development.

Study of the influence of various organic and bacterial fertilizers, applied alone or in combination with nitrogen fertilizers and other biologically active substances on some biological and technological characteristics of basic field and other crops.

Study of the influence of some soil and vegetative herbicides on the yield of grain and its structural elements in the wheat varieties "Venka 1" and "Dunavia".

Development of various innovative approaches and technological solutions applied in modern beekeeping - creation of organic apiaries; selection of technologies for organic beekeeping; use of modern electronic systems for monitoring the basic life parameters of bees inside and outside the hive.

The areas in which Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Dochev has carried out research activities are related to the technologies of growing main field crops such as winter wheat, winter barley, triticale, winter oilseed rape and production of vine seedlings in biological and conventional agriculture. His experimental work is focused mainly on the development of technological solutions, with a strong predominance of developments related to improving the diet of cultivated plants and their biological and technological characteristics through the use of various biodynamic preparations, organic and bacterial

fertilizers applied alone or in combination with nitrogen fertilizers and other biologically active substances. His research contributes to the discovery of new scientific aspects in this field and can be used directly in production to improve negative efficiency.

Special attention in his research is paid to the study of the possibilities for using a computer program, which using the available information from the available database on climate change, machinery and technology, and taking into account the possible risks of implementing certain activities and technological solutions, makes a scientifically justified choice for crop rotation, cultivation technology or a suitable time for harvesting. These studies are a prerequisite for the development of such a program, which would make it possible to make the most appropriate choice in terms of environmental protection and finding a common environmental and economic optimum for the efficiency of agricultural holdings.

A significant place in his work is occupied by research related to the study of changes in the species composition and density of weeds in different cereals and legumes after conversion, and the extent to which these changes are affected by climatic conditions, tillage and applied cultivation technologies.

A significant part of his work is occupied by research related to establishing the influence of some soil and vegetative herbicides on grain yield and its structural elements in wheat varieties "Venka 1" and "Dunavia". Special attention is paid to the reaction of wheat varieties to the herbicides used, when they are applied in normal or twice increased doses, and how they affect the yield and quality of the obtained production. The results of these studies can be used in practice to improve weed control and increase the effectiveness of applied herbicides.

In support of organic beekeeping, various innovative technical solutions related to the creation of organic apiaries have been studied; selection of technologies for organic beekeeping and use of specific computerized systems for monitoring basic vital parameters of bees inside and outside the hive, which would help beekeepers in organizing their work and finding the most appropriate solutions to address environmental challenges.

Significance of the obtained results

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Dochev is in the field of organic and conventional agriculture. It is systematized and mainly covers issues related to organic farming and the development of new technological solutions. It is important to note that his developments are purposeful and with a clear sequence of experiments, well prepared and conducted. Organic farming is a relatively new field of science. Research in this area is limited and the available data and results are insufficient. In this aspect, the research conducted by the candidate is important and relevant.

Significance of the contributions to science and practice

The scientific contributions presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Dochev, I accept in essence, but I believe that presented in this form they are extremely scarce, not clearly formulated and specified, and do not fully reflect the his overall scientific output. The contributions are not differentiated as original, scientific and scientifically-applied. They are presented very generally, not systematically and do not reveal the merits of his research.

Critical remarks

I have the following remarks on the materials proposed for review. The materials submitted in the competition are not properly arranged. There are bibliographic inaccuracies in the list of publications and citations. The table for the minimum scientometric requirements is not filled in correctly. Articles in print exceed the required 10% of the total number of publications. The evidence is incomplete, not in order and unsystematic. A large % of self-citations are allowed in the citation list. The contributions in the author's reference are not clearly formulated, structured and differentiated and do not fully reflect his research activity. The candidate's scientific output is a reflection of his research activity in the field of organic and conventional agriculture and has the necessary scientific merits, but it could hardly be of relation to the topic of the announced competition, which is in the scientific specialty Plant Protection (Biological Plant Protection).

In this regard, I would allow myself to recommend the candidate to direct and deepen his research not only in the field of organic farming, but also in the field of organic plant protection, in which, there is a clear need for in-depth research, which he has proven that he can organize and conduct. Also, to conduct research that would allow him to publish his results in prestigious scientific journals and publications.

Personal impressions and opinion of the reviewer

My impression of Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Dochev is that he is an established scientist in the field of organic and conventional agriculture, which is evident from the presented materials. He has the necessary knowledge and skills in the field in which he works and is highly valued as a researcher. Demonstrates ethics, tolerance and fairness to his colleagues.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the scientific, scientifically-applied and educational activity of the candidate, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Yordanov Dochev does not meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in The Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Shumen for application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff. It does not cover part of the minimum national requirements, there are 4 articles in print, which represent more than 10% of the total number of publications; there are no scientific publications in prestigious scientific journals and publications with impact factor and impact rank. Research and scientific production are in the field of organic and conventional agriculture, which is different from the theme of the competition.

All this gives me reason to assess his overall performance as unsatisfactory and to vote **NEGATIVE** regarding **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Yordanov Dochev** being awarded the academic position "Professor" under PF 6.2 Plant Protection, scientific specialty Plant Protection (Biological Plant Protection).

21.07.2021

Prepared the review:



/ Prof. Dr. V. Arnaudov /