

REVIEW

by Prof. Mariana Georgieva Assenova, PhD

Head of the Department of Economics and Finance at VUARR - Plovdiv

Chairman of the scientific jury by competition

for the academic position "Associate Professor"

in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences,

By professional field 3.8. Economy,

Scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agribusiness)

In the competition for associate professor, announced in the State Gazette no. 43 / 21.05.2021 g . and on the website of VUARR - Plovdiv for the needs of the Department of Economics and Finance at the Faculty of Economics and Management of VUARR - Plovdiv , as a candidate

ch. Assistant Professor Angel Stankov Sarov, PhD

1. Brief biographical data

The opinion was prepared in accordance with Order №205 / 29.07.2021 of the Rector of VUARR on the grounds of Art. 4 of ZRASRB, art. 28, para. 1 of the Regulations for implementation of the law for development of the academic staff in VUARR and Decision of the Council of the Department (Minutes №6 / 15.07.2021).

The only candidate in the competition is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Stankov Sarov . He has successfully combined over the years scientific-teaching and practical-applied work , as he has taught at the Institute of Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy and at UNWE, and in the period 2000-2016 he has held various management positions in the field of business.

Angel Sarov was born on August 21, 1974 in the city of Sofia. May 10 , 1953. His interests in the field of agriculture and agribusiness date back to his youth, when in 1993 he graduated from the Vocational School of Agriculture and Forestry (BUZEMA), Sofia, majoring in Plant Breeding. He continued his education at the University of National and World Economy, majoring in Agricultural Economics, and in 1999 he acquired a Master's degree in this specialty. He started his career in 2000 as a "sales representative" in "SVS - 98" Ltd. - Sofia, and from 2005 to 2007 he was a " sales director" in the same company. From 2008 to 2016 he worked as a business development expert in Orgachim AD - Ruse.

His scientific career began in January 2013, when he was enrolled in part-time doctoral studies at the Institute of Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy. At the end of the same year, he was already an assistant, and since 2017 - chief assistant. Sarov successfully defended his dissertation in 2017 on „Management of agricultural cooperatives - challenges and prospects " and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty " Economics and Management " (by industry) . **To participate in this competition, holding a doctorate is one of the necessary conditions and the candidate meets it.**

During the years of his creative path he has been actively working in projects with national and international participation / over 20 projects /, specializes in the Erasmus + program at Humboldt University, Berlin and at the University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", Skopje.

He is currently a member of: the Advisory Council on Tobacco - MAF, the Union of Agrarian Economists in the Republic of Macedonia, the editorial board of the magazine „Agricultural Cooperative ", ed. of the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives in Bulgaria .

He is very fluent in English, French and Russian.

Another absolutely necessary requirement for participation in the competition is the availability of a **published independent monographic work** . Dr. Sarov presents his monograph „Assessment of the management sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria „with a volume of 142 pages, published in 2019.

2. General description of the presented materials

Candidate Dr. Angel Sarov participated in the competition with the following number of publications :

- Monographs - 1 issue ;
- Studies - 4 pieces;
- Articles - 13 issues;
- Scientific reports - 6 pieces;
- Book based on a defended dissertation - 1 issue ;
- Other publications (participation in collective books and monographs) - 3 issues.

In the contest h and Associate Professor Dr Sarov participated in 28 scientific developments. 11 of them are in English and 17 in Bulgarian. The co-authored publications predominate - 15 issues, and the independent works are 13 issues. The participation of the authors is distinguished in the co-authored publications. All publications are on the topic of the competition, and a very pleasant impression is made by the fact that 5 of the author's scientific publications have been published in scientific journals with an impact factor and in the database Scopus and Web of Science . The most significant is his own monograph that is unique in that it combines the issues , related to sustainability in agriculture and the challenges regenerative economy.

The classification of scientific publications according to the author's participation in national and international forums is as follows:

- publications in scientific journals and forums abroad - 6;
- publications in Bulgarian scientific journals - 15;
- publications in collections of scientific forums with international participation - 5;
- publications in collections of national scientific forums - 3;
- publications in international journals - 3;

In addition, peer-reviewed publications can be classified into the following groups:

- agricultural management - publications with numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 18, 19 and 24 from the attached list;
- management of agricultural cooperatives - publications with numbers 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 17, 18,19, 21, 22 and 24 from the attached list;
- sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas - publications with numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28 from the attached list.

All of them are in the field of economics and agribusiness management and meet the quantitative and qualitative criteria for participation in the announced competition for "associate professor".

3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature (known citations)

The candidate is very well known in the scientific community. His numerous publications and participations in scientific forums speak eloquently about this. From the presented reference for the citations it is evident that he has applied 9 citations, of which 2 are in scientific journals indexed in the world databases, and the remaining 7 are in unrefereed journals with scientific review. Unfortunately, it is still a problem in our country to find citations in unrefereed publications or in books and textbooks of colleagues from related universities.

4. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

4.1. Educational and pedagogical activity

The requirements to the teaching and teaching activity of the candidate are developed according to the requirements of art. 27 (4) of ZRASRB and Art. 57a (2) item 1 of PPZRASRB.

The documents provided for the performed activities in the teaching and teaching activity of the candidate are proof on the basis of which conclusions can be made about his teaching and teaching activity and that he legitimately participates in the announced competition.

The quantitative and qualitative requirements for the teaching and teaching activity of Dr. Sarov can be presented in the following directions:

1. Learning load

The reports show that in quantitative terms the candidate has a teaching activity at the University of National and World Economy, NBU and the Institute of Agrarian Economics at the Agricultural Academy. Qualitatively, the study load can be assessed on the basis of the portfolio of taught disciplines. He has given lectures and exercises in the disciplines " Customer Relationship Management ", " Business Process Management ", " Real Estate Innovation ", "Financial and Real Estate Innovation ", " Business Development Strategies in rural areas ", " Stakeholder management " and " Strategic management of the enterprise ".

Outside the direct teaching assignments

Dr. Sarov has a number of commitments outside of teaching in classrooms. T He has developed programs reviewer in the journal. "Agricultural cooperative" , participates in a number of national projects and programs.

2. Developed and published teaching materials

In the field of educational teaching he have not submitted for review textbooks and teaching materials. Knowing the monographic works of the candidate, it can be assumed that they can be used by students with a master's degree. In the future, I recommend the candidate to publish even in electronic form some of his teaching materials in the disciplines led by him.

3. Work with students and doctoral students

Chief Assistant has daily contact with his students. As a non-habilitated person, he is not included in examination commissions and has no doctoral students.

4.2. Scientific and scientifically applied activity

The requirements to the scientific and research activity of the candidate are developed according to the requirements of art. 27 (4) item 2 of ZRASRB and art. 57a (2) item 2 of PPZRASRB.

For review within the competition, the candidate Dr. Sarov has presented 28 publications and has participated in the following projects:

- 9 research projects of the Institute of Agrarian Economics with client Agriculture Academy - Sofia;
- 6 research projects of the Institute of Agrarian Economics, financed by external sources ("Research Fund" at the Ministry of Education and Science and "Sofia Water" AD);
- 2 research projects funded by external sources for Bulgaria (European Fund - Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Program and European Commission - Horizon 20 Program).

All publications submitted for review are made after the defense of the dissertation. The candidate has the obligatory independent monograph.

Of the remaining 27 publications, the articles predominate - 13 or these are 48, 15%, studies - 4 pcs. or 14.81%, scientific reports - 6 pcs. or 22.22%, participation in collective books and monographs - 3 pcs. 11.11%.

The most important scientific work for participation in the competition is the habilitation work or in this case it is the published **monograph "Assessment of the management sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria"** with a volume of 142 pages, published in 2019. In it the author examines the sustainability of agricultural holdings from a managerial point of view, which is an innovative understanding and for this purpose it not only characterizes in detail the managerial sustainability in agriculture, but develops tools and methodological approach for assessing this sustainability, derives principles, criteria and indicators for its assessment, assesses management sustainability of farms in the country, brings key factors for improving managerial stability of Bulgarian farms and points p CHALLENGES so the sustainability in regenerative economy. Thesis research, advocating that „governable sustainability of farms in Bulgaria is sufficiently new that requires closer interaction of institutions with farmers „. This thesis is proved in the developed monographic work in three parts.

The first part is theoretical and methodological, which clarifies the concept of managerial sustainability, which the author classifies as a fourth pillar for assessing sustainability. For this purpose, a system of principles, criteria, indicators and reference values for the analysis of sustainability of agricultural holdings in our country is proposed.

The second part is dedicated to the assessment of management sustainability at the level of an individual farm. An empirical study was conducted on the basis of a survey, which included 22 questions related to the management pillar among 106 agricultural holdings from all regions in the country. The assessment of managerial sustainability is made at five levels, according to: legal status; specialization of farms (specialized in breeding perennials, herbivores, and with mixed plant-animal specialization); holdings located in different ecosystems and areas (mainly flat areas, lowland areas, mainly mountainous areas, in mountainous areas with natural constraints); according to the gender of the managers (men and women); according to the age structure of the managers (young farmers up to 40 years, farmers aged 41 to 55).

In the **third part** are drawn conclusions and proposals for improvement of managerial sustainability. According to the assessment, it was found that agricultural holdings in Bulgaria have satisfactory management stability. The proposed hypothesis that the managerial sustainability of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria is satisfactorily new is confirmed.

In conclusion, the author believes that "the proposed approach to assessing managerial sustainability will be useful for science and practice" / p.128 /, and also that "the regenerative economy is still insufficiently studied in agribusiness in our country." In this aspect, Dr.

Sarov's monograph is indeed innovative and represents an original work in the field of agricultural management.

The review of the other publications shows that the candidate meets the quantitative requirements of VUARR - Plovdiv for participation in a competition for associate professor. He knows in detail the research areas and the theoretical statements are backed by analyzes proving the relevant theses.

3.3. Implementation activity

I have no information that the applicant has specific innovations in practice, but based on his participation in national and international projects and proposals made in the field of agribusiness and management of agricultural cooperatives, I find that he has the potential to develop in the future and specific implementation activities.

4. Contributions (scientific, scientifically applied, applied)

Scientific achievements with the nature of contributions can be sought first in the monographic work, and then in the studies, articles and scientific reports submitted by the candidate. I accept the synthesized contributions and I would like to point out some of them in two sections - with theoretical-methodological and practical-applied character.

Contributions of theoretical and methodological nature

- Develops and enriches the definition of agricultural and cooperatives her, "cooperative and management structure" , as separates different types of agricultural cooperatives on the basis of internal and external subordination. P redlaga methodological tools for the study of the economic and social impact of management as well as the types management structure in Bulgarian agricultural cooperatives (References 2; 8; 17; 18; 19; 21; 24);
- Systematizes the functional and organizational characteristics in the management of agricultural cooperatives and identifies inconsistencies in the model of management structure, leading to convergence with that of corporate structures in agriculture and indicates guidelines for overcoming them (Publications 2; 6; 9; 11; 17; 22; 24) ;
- Justified and provides a method for optimizing the production structure of agricultural holdings on the basis of an economic assessment of the impact of the CAP and biostimulant in agriculture in the context of circular and bioeconomy so . It proposes the inclusion of CRM in agriculture and rural areas as a tool in helping the Board RESISTANT development. (Publications 3; 4; 10; 14; 15; 26; 27; 28).

Contributions of a practical nature

- Develops fourth pillar of sustainability assessment called upravlenche ski farms. It applies a systematic approach and offers a methodological approach for assessing managerial sustainability by testing it in practice. Makes assessment of managerial resistance to various types ZEM edelskite farms in Bulgaria and offers measures to improve managerial stability of Bulgarian farms (References 1, 5, 7; 13; 20; 25) . .
- Researches and analyzes various problems in the management of subsidies on the economic efficiency of agricultural structures in agriculture and rural development. Proposes an econometric model for optimization of the production structure of agricultural holdings operating in a single European market (Publications 2; 3; 4; 12; 18; 19; 28).
- Proposes measures to eliminate a number of internal contradictions in the management, in order to motivate the local community to cooperate. It examines the

social commitment of agricultural cooperatives and proposes measures to strengthen the manifestation of cooperative values , principles and identity (Publications 2; 6; 9; 19; 22; 24).

5. Critical notes

H Yamamoto major criticisms to Dr. Sarov and submitted for review materials. The lack of textbooks and teaching aids is impressive. I recommend him to publish his materials in the future so that they are available not only to students, but also to all those interested in the subject of agricultural management, sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas. The field of financial innovations in the real estate market is also promising.

I also recommend that he continue to publish in renowned journals, expand the scope of research and also include issues that are of a financial, environmental and social nature.

6. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate , but I have very good impressions from the presented CV and scientific publications.

7. Conclusion :

Appreciated n redstaven s for review publications such as field IPA for both science and practice. The proposed application meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

This gives me a reason to vote "YES" and I suggest to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to choose Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Angel Stankov Sarov for "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.8. And economics, scientific specialty: Economics and Management (Agribusiness) - for the needs of VUARR - Plovdiv.

21/08/2021,
Plovdiv
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the Chairman of the scientific jury:
Prof . Mariana G. Assenova, PhD