



TRAKIA UNIVERSITY – STARA ZAGORA
FACULTY OF ECONOMICS



REVIEW

From Prof. Dr. Nadka Stefanova Kostadinova, scientific specialty Economics and Management /agriculture, veterinary-medical activity, management accounting/, Department of Management at the Faculty of Economics of Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

The review was prepared on the basis of: Order of the Rector of Trakia University – Stara Zagora № 1198 dated 07.04.2023 and decision of the Scientific Jury, made at the first meeting, held on 21.04.2023.

Author of the dissertation: Marina Mihailova Dimitrova, Department of "Economics" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty Economics and Management /Agriculture/, professional field 3.8 Economics.

Dissertation topic: "ACCOUNTING PROBLEMS IN FINANCIAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS"

I. Brief information about the PhD program and the PhD student

The dissertation is discussed and directed for public defense by the Department of "Economics" at Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

PhD student Marina Mihailova Dimitrova graduated from the Bachelor program "Finance" at UNWE - Sofia in 2011, then with a Master's degree in "Financial Management" and "Accounting and Control" again at UNWE - Sofia in 2015 and 2018, respectively. Since 2018, she is a full-time PhD student at Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

She is proficient in English and German, has good communication and teamwork skills.

II. General characteristics of the dissertation

The subject of the scientific research is the management of financial resources of agricultural producers.

Volume – The dissertation submitted for review has a total size of 201 standard pages and consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, references, appendices, a list of tables and figures, and a list of abbreviations used. 37 figures and 20 tables visualize the material.

The structure (title page, table of contents, introduction, exposition, conclusion and bibliography) and content of the dissertation are in accordance with the requirements of Art. 27, para. 2 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Cited literature – the bibliographic list includes 87 monographs, textbooks, studies, articles, reports, 32 normative acts, 6 official websites of institutions.

III. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation

Relevance of the research – The presented dissertation examines a current and significant problem for the agricultural sector. The intensive development of the agricultural sector, based on Bulgaria's membership in the European Union, leads to the need to improve the accounting information system. A new approach in determining the cause-and-effect relationships for guaranteeing the liquidity and sustainability of the agrarian holdings through financial resources is also imperative.

The question of researching the influence of public financing on the efficiency of holdings attracts the attention of economists, which proves the relevance of the topic of the dissertation.

The object of research was correctly selected - accounting in the management of financial resources of agricultural producers, their structure, features of formation.

The subject of the scientific research is the management of the financial resources of agricultural producers.

The research thesis is a logical consequence of the topic of the dissertation and is presented through two sub-hypotheses, which are aimed at proving some serious problems in the accounting interpretation in the management of the financial resources of agricultural producers, as a result of which existing ones can be optimized and new accounting reporting models can be developed.

The purpose and tasks of the dissertation work are correctly and clearly formulated, adequate to the object of research by establishing the accounting problems in the management of the financial resources of agricultural producers.

The research methodology used, covering different methods and approaches, is suitable for the purpose and tasks of the research, and has been applied correctly.

I believe that in the dissertation work, limitations of the research are correctly set, namely from economic activity 01 "Crop breeding, animal breeding and hunting; auxiliary activities" according to KID 2008, two groups falling under section 1 - 01.6 "Auxiliary activities in agriculture" and 01.7 "Hunting and auxiliary activities" are excluded.

The exposition of the dissertation work is presented in three chapters, with a good balance being achieved in terms of their volumes and also of their individual paragraphs. A classic approach of structuring a dissertation with distinguishable and logically linked theoretical, methodological-analytical and project parts is adopted, which in their totality represent a complete study.

In *chapter one*, the definitions of basic concepts that are considered in the study are analyzed. Classifications by Bulgarian and foreign authors were examined. A detailed theoretical overview of the legal framework regarding the accounting reporting of agricultural producers has been made. The importance of analytical accounting, its advantages and disadvantages are argued.

Chapter two is devoted to the methodology and methodological problems of accounting in the management of the financial resources of agricultural producers. A content analysis is presented to identify problems in the applicability of accounting information in

the management of financial resources. In addition, the survey method, statistical methods for processing information, including analysis of variance (ANOVA), Student-Fisher T-test, graphical method, and others are presented. The peculiarities and applicability of accounting information in the management of internal (own) and external (attracted) sources of financial resources are examined. Accounting problems related to accountability are identified through an author's method resulting from the elements of accountability methodology generally accepted by accounting theory.

In the *third chapter*, practical-applied solutions to the accounting problems in the reporting of financial resources management of agricultural producers are presented. Through independent empirical research based on the responses of 351 typical respondents, the author has developed new accounting models for the disclosure of financial resources in the accounts of agricultural holdings under single- and double-entry accounting. The survey does not claim to be representative of the data, but the scope is large enough to give significant information on the problem under study. It is used as an auxiliary tool to verify the main hypothesis of the study. The respondents are representatives of agricultural holdings - accountants or managers who practically know both the accounting system and the problems in it. Based on the conducted survey, subjective assessments of the management-accounting problems of agricultural producers and an analysis of the management of dependencies between financial resources in agriculture are presented.

Each chapter of the dissertation ends with adequately summarized conclusions.

In the **conclusion** of the dissertation, the PhD student presents summarized results, on the basis of which she formulates adequate recommendations for the optimization of financial and accounting reporting and the management of financial resources in agricultural holdings.

I believe that the dissertation work is an original and in-depth scientific study, a personal work of the author. The PhD student complied with the rules of scientific ethics by correctly citing the used literary sources. The calculation procedures and the statistical processing of the empirical data were performed correctly. The dissertation work is very well illustrated.

The author's abstract is presented in a form that meets the requirements, reflecting in a volume of 45 pages the content of the dissertation and the main scientific and applied results achieved. The reference to the contributions correctly reflects the results achieved by the author, which I generally accept - some of them could be combined, but this would not change their essence.

The dissertation submitted to me for review proves that the PhD student has acquired in-depth theoretical knowledge of the studied topic and has the ability to conduct independent scientific research, justify recommendations and present opportunities for optimization.

The PhD student has published 3 independent papers in journals visible on the Web of Science on the subject of her dissertation. Two foreign citations of the independent publication was noted.

IV. Questions, recommendations and notes

I have a question and recommendation for the PhD student:

Is it possible that the accounting models proposed by the PhD student for the disclosure of financial resources in unilateral and bilateral accounting reporting can be applied in the auxiliary activities of agriculture?

I recommend the PhD student in her future scientific activity to publish her research in specialized, refereed and indexed scientific journals.

V. Conclusion

The dissertation work of the PhD student Marina Mihailova Dimitrova on the topic: "Accounting problems in financial resources management in agricultural holdings" is a completed independent scientific study dedicated to a current economic problem. The set aim and tasks of the research have been successfully achieved.

I believe that the dissertation meets the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for its application. With conviction, I will vote for awarding an educational and scientific "Doctor" to Marina Mihailova Dimitrova in the scientific specialty "Economics and Management" /agriculture/.

18.05.2023

Stara Zagora

Reviewer:

/ Prof. Dr. N. Kostadinova /