



availability and affordability issues for some of the main food commodities and, in particular, for oil in 2021-22.

The bibliographical reference contains a total of 110 sources - 21 in Cyrillic, 50 in Latin and 39 electronic sources.

An abstract of the thesis is also presented, with a length of 50 pages.

## **II. Assessment of the form and content of the dissertation**

The title of the thesis: "Sustainable development of industrial enterprises" is formulated clearly and concretely. It is related to the doctoral thesis and the stated object, subject and purpose of the research. Defined in this way, it has allowed the conduct of an inquiry and research on the status, trends and opportunities for sustainable development of industrial enterprises - approaches, opportunities and solutions related to sustainable development.

The relevance of the problem of sustainable development is determined by the lack of an objective method for measuring the degree of development achieved in both global and regional contexts.

The chosen topic provides an opportunity to analyze and clarify an important problem for enterprises related to the sustainable development of industrial enterprises in three interrelated aspects: economic, social and environmental. Attention is paid to the enterprises themselves, as the concept of sustainability is manifested in the formulation of corporate policy in the field of ecologization of production and human resources, the adoption of standards and indicators for the evaluation and measurement of the achieved results, the construction of specific management units, staff training, etc.

The main objective set by the PhD student is to investigate the existing policies and mechanisms for sustainable development and through research, analysis and synthesis of the practical dimensions of sustainable development of plant-oil production to establish its status and outline the main directions of sustainability policy.

In order to fulfil the objective, six research tasks are also outlined, aimed at clarifying the nature and specificity of sustainable development policy, the priorities and guidelines in the implemented programmes and initiatives in the field of sustainable development, to analyse and evaluate the sustainable development of the vegetable oil industry, to develop a methodology for the analysis of the sustainable development of enterprises in the vegetable oil industry, to make a general assessment of the implemented policies for the sustainable development of enterprises in the sector under study and formulas

The object of the study is the active non-financial enterprises in sector C - "Manufacturing", section 10.4 "Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats", item 10.41. - "Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats, except margarine", according to the NICI-2008, which is a traditional subsector of the



light industry in Bulgaria. The subject of the study is best practices for the sustainable development of enterprises in the vegetable oil and fats industry. Emphasis is placed on the programmes and initiatives developed and implemented with a view not only to achieving sustainable development but also to ensuring it in the long term.

The main research thesis is properly formulated and corresponds to the set goals and objectives. A complex of methods and approaches—from quantitative and qualitative methods, whose choice is conditioned by the necessity of obtaining practically useful information, allowing to reach correct for the scientific research conclusions and generalizations, has been used to conduct the research. The analytical, intuitive and systematic approaches are applied, as well as the methods of observation, induction and deduction, the expert method.

The empirical data were obtained by conducting surveys and using official statistical data from the National Statistical Institute (NSI); analytical reports of the Ministry of Economy (MoE), materials of the Association of Vegetable Oil and Oil Products Producers in Bulgaria; the websites and company e-mail addresses of the surveyed companies (oil producers, farmers and distributors), the annual financial statements of oil producers published in the Trade Register of the Republic of Bulgaria and other sources of information.

The theoretical aspects of sustainable development are explored in chapter one. The main issues addressed are focused on the emergence of the idea of sustainable development and its institutionalisation, the different theories and views on sustainable development, the indicators of sustainable growth, the strategies for sustainable development.

The second chapter is methodological. It deals with the normative framework of sustainable development of the Bulgarian industry, the main directions of sustainable development in the three areas - "SmartIndustry"; "Green and Sustainable Bulgaria"; "Connected and Integrated Bulgaria". Along with this, a specific emphasis is placed on the methodological approach for assessing sustainable development from the point of view of the three approaches applied - conservative, systematic and evolutionary approach.

A methodology for assessing the sustainable development of industrial enterprises, developed on the basis of several scientific publications in this field, is also presented.

In the third chapter, empirical research on sustainability is presented through review, analysis and assessment of enterprises in the planting industry (sunflower, rapeseed, peanut and soybean). They are mainly of practical orientation—for the development of a sustainable development mechanism for the enterprises of the vegetable oil industry in four directions—in terms of understanding the nature and advantages of sustainable development, in terms of practices related to sustainable business development,



in terms of indicators for measuring sustainability in enterprises and in terms of the developed strategies for sustainable development.

The conclusion draws the necessary main conclusions and generalisations.

The attached abstract meets the requirements. It gives a good overview of the objectives, object, content and results of the study. It correctly reflects the scope of the study.

The statement of contributions adequately reflects the achievements of the author of the thesis.

There are 1 study, 1 article and 3 reports published on the dissertation topic. The publications are in the publications of SA "D.A.Tsenov" city of Svishtov.

### **III. Scientific and applied contributions**

The scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the dissertation work can be sought in the following directions:

1. 1. The origin and institutionalization of the idea of sustainable development is investigated as a result of an in-depth study of literature sources.
- 2.

Adapted methodologies for assessing the level of resilience in industrial enterprises.

3. An individual empirical study of the level of resilience of vegetable- and dairy industry.

4. Conclusions and recommendations on improving the level of resilience of enterprises in the vegetable and oil industry are formulated. The guidelines for optimising the programmes and initiatives for the resilience of industrial enterprises are outlined.

The publications correspond to the defined tasks in the thesis and are at a very good research level.

The reviewer is not aware of any citations by other authors

### **IV. Critical remarks, questions and recommendations on the dissertation**

I have no significant comments regarding the dissertation, the main presentation and the argumentation of the conclusions.

I would recommend the author to publish the results of the dissertation in refereed and indexed in international databases Scopus and Web of Science to popularize them and to arouse the interest of a wide group of subjects on the studied issues.

The recommendation does not diminish the results achieved and the overall good impression of a thorough scientific work.

My question to PhD student Aiten Sabri is the following:

- o Do you think that the National Normative Framework of Sustainable Development, which finds its comprehensive representation in the National

Recovery and Sustainability Plan, is realistic and fully supported? Do you have any additional recommendations to make to it?

### Conclusion

The presented dissertation on the topic "Sustainable Development of Industrial Enterprises", as well as the attached documents reflecting the activities and publications of the candidate, fully meet the criteria for the award of the PhD degree under the DRDA.

On the basis of the submitted scientific work, the scientific and applied contributions contained therein and in view of their significance, I find it justified to propose to the candidate Ayten Bayryam Sabri

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Dolna Mitropolia, 14.08.2023

Reviewer:

(Assoc. Prof. Galina Todorova, PhD)