

Dear UF/IFAS Faculty and staff,

It is my pleasure to announce Dr. Norma Samuel as the new Central District Extension Director, effective today. Dr. Samuel has served as Associate District Extension Director since February 2021, and as Extension agent IV, Ph.D., Florida Friendly Landscapes™ and urban horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County.

Dr. Samuel is an experienced Extension Agent in the areas of residential and commercial horticulture, Master Gardener Coordinator, and 4-H youth development. She has expertise in the areas of pest management, food systems (backyard and community gardens), volunteer development; risk management; and human and organizational capacity building of Extension systems. She has led and or participated in several international Extension projects in the Caribbean and Ghana. She is a member of several professional organizations and served in leadership roles with the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers' Network (Chair, 2016 – 2021) and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services, an international nonprofit based in Switzerland (President of the Board, 2021 – 2022).

You can learn more about Dr. Samuel here:

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2021/02/16/voices-of-uf-ifas-dr-norma-samuel/>

Congratulations to Dr. Samuel, and we all look forward to working with her in the Central District.

Regards,



Andra D. Johnson, Ph.D.
Dean for Extension & Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service
University of Florida – Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences