

## Farm Hub names director

Cornell University's Small Farms Program Director selected to lead non-profit

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The Local Economies Project is pleased to announce that Anu Rangarajan has been named Director of the Hudson Valley Farm Hub. Rangarajan comes to the Farm Hub from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, where she has been the Director of the Cornell Small Farms Program since 2004.

As Farm Hub Director, Rangarajan will lead what is slated to become one of the most progressive non-profit training, research, and demonstration farms in the country. The Hudson Valley Farm Hub was launched this past year on 1255 acres of farmland in Hurley, New York, and is being managed by the Local Economies Project of the New World Foundation. Bob Dandrew, Director of the Local Economies Project, said, "When our search committee was formed and we began imagining ideal candidates for the job, Anu was on the top of everyone's list. We are thrilled that she was as inspired by this opportunity as we were by her."

Rangarajan will be charged with developing and overseeing a broad roster of initiatives aimed at strengthening the future of agriculture and the food system in the Hudson Valley. These include professional farmer training, public education, and an extensive crop research program. The first research projects at the Farm Hub were commenced this year in conjunction with Cornell University and Cooperative Extension of Ulster County.

Since joining the Cornell faculty in 1996 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture, Rangarajan's career has included teaching, research, and program leadership in sustainable agriculture with a focus on vegetable production systems. In addition to directing the Cornell Small Farms Program, she has in recent years served as State Coordinator for Professional Development for the USDA Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and as Statewide Specialist for Fresh Market Vegetable Production. "I'm thrilled to be joining the Local Economies Project as Farm Hub Director," said Rangarajan. "This is a chance to realize a vision for agriculture and the local food system that I've been working towards throughout the course of my career. I look forward to working with the Hudson Valley farming community, our many partner organizations, and of course (Farm Manager) John Gill and the Farm Hub staff." Rangarajan holds a B.S. and Ph.D. from Michigan State University and an M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, she has published articles in academic journals on subjects such as conservation tillage, food safety, and organic production. A grower since childhood, she operated her own farm in central New York State prior to moving to the Hudson Valley.



Anu Rangarajan, Hudson Valley Farm Hub Director.

Rangarajan will formally step into the director position on September 22.

Agricultural leaders across the state welcomed the news. "My sincere congratulations to Anu Rangarajan on being named the director of the Hudson Valley Farm Hub," said New York State Commissioner of Agriculture Richard A. Ball. "I've personally visited this facility, and what an impressive place it is. The Hudson Valley region is an important gateway that connects upstate producers with downstate consumers, and the Farm Hub will play an important role in helping these regions connect the dots in the future."

Local Economies Project (LEP) was founded in 2010 with a mission to promote resilient agriculture and a vibrant food system in the Hudson Valley. For more information on LEP and the Farm Hub visit: [www.localeconomiesproject.org](http://www.localeconomiesproject.org).