

Bio – Roy Beckford

Fitzroy (Roy) B. Beckford, PhD, is an accomplished and widely recognized figure in the field of agriculture, sustainability, and climate change, and has made significant contributions to academia, research, and Extension. Roy began his career in veterinary and public health in Jamaica, and later moved to the British Virgin Islands, where he served in various capacities within the agricultural sector for a decade. His passion for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation led him to pursue higher education, obtaining a MSc in Agriculture and Rural Development from the University of the West Indies, and a Doctorate in Sustainability Education from Prescott College in Arizona. He served as Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and as County Extension Director at the University of Florida for a total of 15 years and worked at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University from 2018-2020, serving as the State Program Leader for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Roy took a hiatus from Extension work in the US in 2020 to serve as a consultant on an agricultural development initiative in Qatar that was focused on meeting food production goals for the 2022 Soccer World Cup finals.

Currently, Dr. Beckford holds the position of Associate Dean and Director of Extension at the University of Vermont, where he oversees extension education and outreach programs that serve agricultural stakeholders and communities across the state. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Beckford has published two major books, including his most recent title "Poverty and Climate Change: Restoring a Global Biogeochemical Equilibrium." His work and research have made a significant impact in the fields of sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and social equity. Roy Beckford's contributions extend beyond the academic, research, and administrative realms, as he is actively involved in various professional organizations and serves on the Vermont Governor appointed Milk Commission, the Vermont Agriculture Innovation Board, and is also co-chair of the Vermont Agriculture Recovery Task Force. Overall, Roy's commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture, addressing climate change, and promoting social equity has solidified his reputation as a leader and innovator in his field. His dedication to education, outreach, and advocacy continues to have a positive and lasting impact on the global agricultural community.