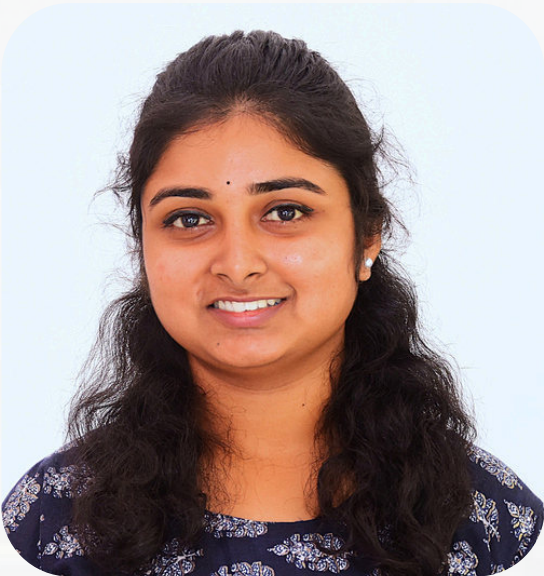




National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Ms. Sathi Saw

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad from June 01 to 05, 2026.



SATHI SAW

Introduction

Until you yourself are not experiencing a thing, it is very difficult to describe and even imagine what impact it can make on you. Just like me, I landed up in this programme after listening about it from my seniors but during the submission of the nomination form, I was not having any idea that how a 5 days training programme can change my perspective towards my own field 'Agricultural Extension'. I am so much excited to share my rich, unforgettable experience of attending the National young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP), organized by MANAGE, Hyderabad from 1st June to 5th June, 2026.



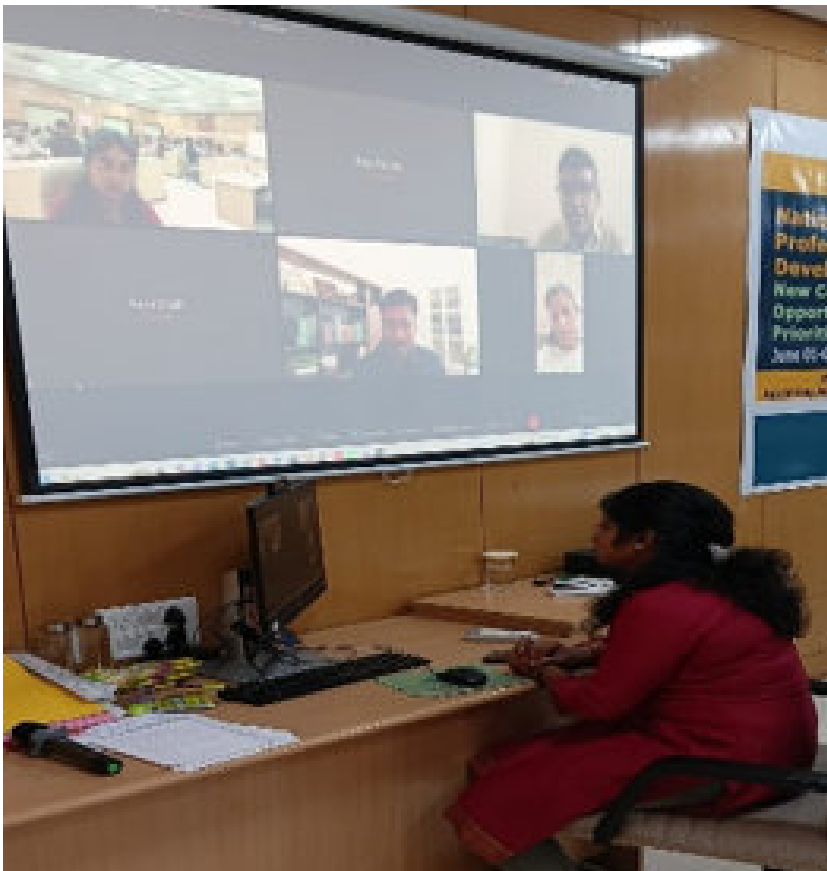
Day 1

Just like how different rivers start from different sources, flow with their own pace and meet the sea, we, the participants of NYPDP, started our own journey with different thoughts, expectations, curiosity in mind and ended up in MANAGE, meeting each other, dissolving the invisible barrier of language, culture, beliefs and background. The feeling of sitting in a hall full of extensionists can't be described through words where you are also a part of them.



The welcome address by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director of MANAGE was just an eye-opening session. His one question that triggered my mind was “What extra miles can you go for your subject?”. Before that I never thought that much deeply about Extension but there I could understand that “The goal of Agricultural Extension is overall development of agriculture and we are just part of it.” His powerful mantra, “Celebrate your subject” just set the tone for the upcoming days.

Day 2



Knowing the different career opportunities available in the field of Agricultural Extension just gave a different direction to our thoughts. We were having a narrow and very limited knowledge regarding the research priorities in Extension but the sessions brought many important things in our knowledge.

Besides that, the use and importance of AI in today's generation needs no introduction. The session of Aditya Sinha, was immensely helpful to know about different AI tools for academic researchers. On this day, one of the most important sessions was taken by Dr. Raahalya, where she discussed about the different career opportunities and what are the skills required and also how to develop those skills for "Future Proofing Our Career in Agricultural Extension."

Day 3

New day starting with new inspiration, Mahesh Chander's word that "You are a brand" just sowed the seeds of self-confidence and self-worth within our hearts. His way of explaining the risk-taking behaviour of entrepreneurs was just way too simple yet in an unconventional way, enabled us to think in a broader perspective and out of the box. His sessions on Extension for organic farming and gender equality deepened our understanding on these hot topics. But the day was not just completed there. A visit to Access Livelihoods, an NGO based in Hyderabad, offered valuable insights into the organization's multifaceted support for rural communities especially in areas of enterprise development, input supply, financial access, market linkages for products etc. were worth knowing.





Day 4

The 4th day started with a question from Dr. Raahalya that what were the things that we want to unlearn, learn and apply. It was the most interesting discussion session where everyone shared their ideas. Privileged to attend the thought-provoking session on policy engagement for agricultural extension by Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman, Director, CRISP. Also got to know the difference between policy dialogue and policy brief and also could know the difference between policy actors and policy makers.





The day also featured a rich discussion on Human Decision Modelling in Extension by Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar. It was less of a lecture but more felt like a simulation game where we all were divided in 5 groups and each group was given a specific problem which they had to mitigate with different strategies. Before that, I personally never attended such a session where the problem-solving skills, decision making skills, critical thinking skills etc. all were needed to be used at once. Really grateful to Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar for such a thought-provoking session.

The day ended up with the Research Ethics Cafe organized by Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar. With the help of this activity, we could know how the Institutional ethical committee works. He made us realize the importance of ethics and ethical committee in doing any research.



Day 5

The concluding day of the training program began with an engaging presentation by Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar, focusing on the essential monitoring and evaluation competencies required for extension professionals. A focus group discussion was also organized with the participants to provide the participants an experiential exposure complemented by a hands-on activity designed to build practical understanding of participants.

The five days long training program was completed with a valedictory session followed by the certificate distribution by Dr Saravanan Raj, marking the successful completion of an enriching and multi-dimensional learning experience.

Change in Perspective

To be honest, before attending this NYPDP, I was quite skeptical regarding the career opportunities and other aspects of my subject. I just knew that if we have to have a prestigious job in agricultural extension then either I have to clear ARS exam or become an assistant professor. But now I can see my field with a broader sight and with a much clearer lens.

The dilemma which we all have that whether Extension is only theory or it is having any practical implications were just clear to me when Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Director General, MANAGE, told that from Agricultural research to implementation everything is extension. Extension is the heartbeat of agriculture. So, with this in my heart, I will try my best to go extra miles for my subject.

Atmosphere and Environment

The training environment itself was just exceptional. Starting from the accommodation, hospitality, delicious food to the learning environment everything was so systematically and professionally planned to serve the participants a full experience of spending 5 days in a National level institute. Even the tasks which were done outside the training hall, whether on the lawn or in garden, everything seemed like serving for a special purpose. The conducive environment fostered curiosity, determination, motivation and the thirst to know more.



What I Appreciate

There were so many things to learn and appreciate. But if I have to choose one that I appreciated the most, then it was the passion for extension. Regardless the staffs, speakers, experts, participants, the one thing which was over and over emphasized was that we should celebrate our subject and must have passion to contribute in the field of extension. By this programme, it seems I have fallen in love with my subject and my field.



Peer Interactions and Networking Opportunities

Having insightful discussions with different professionals throughout India from different universities, didn't just broaden the mind also gave the opportunity to know about different perspectives of people on various topics. The conversations opened some new ideas, cleared concepts and built a we feeling among us.



Along with this, the networking opportunities with each other also provided a valuable asset for our future research and professional life. Having the opportunity to be connected with peers as well as the experts from same field not only opens door for future scopes but also helps to mould ourselves with the growing needs of our ever evolving and dynamic domain.

Most Significant Takeaway

My most significant takeaway from the training is the realization that Agricultural Extension is a dynamic and versatile discipline with immense potential to create meaningful impact across sectors and beyond geographical boundaries. The programme inspired me to broaden my perspective, recognize the importance of continuous self-development, and understand that personal growth is essential for contributing effectively to the profession. It reinforced the idea that true empowerment begins with self-confidence, clarity of purpose, and commitment.

The training also highlighted that successful careers are built on competencies, adaptability, and lifelong learning rather than merely pursuing job titles. Overall, NYPDP ignited a greater curiosity, ambition, and determination in me to align my skills with emerging opportunities and real-world challenges.



Action Plan

I plan to apply the knowledge and insights gained from this programme by actively exploring emerging opportunities in Agricultural Extension, research, and professional development. I will strive to broaden my horizons through continuous learning, meaningful networking, and engagement with national and international platforms.

Moving forward, I intend to align my academic and research pursuits with contemporary challenges and priority areas while remaining rooted in the core principles of Agricultural Extension. Rather than focusing solely on job titles, I will work towards developing the competencies, adaptability, and skills required to excel in diverse professional roles.



I also aim to make effective use of digital resources, online learning platforms, and certification courses to enhance my knowledge and career readiness. Furthermore, I will share the learnings and experiences from this programme with my peers, juniors, and colleagues, encouraging them to recognize the vast scope and opportunities within Agricultural Extension and inspiring a culture of continuous growth and learning.

This version sounds more personal, professional, and suitable for a feedback presentation or report.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

My NYPDP journey was a transformative learning experience that broadened my perspective on Agricultural Extension and professional development. The programme inspired me to think beyond conventional boundaries, embrace lifelong learning, and recognize the importance of competencies, confidence, and adaptability in building a meaningful career. It not only enhanced my knowledge but also ignited a greater curiosity to explore new opportunities and contribute more effectively to society.

The programme was extremely enriching and well-organized. For future initiatives, MANAGE may consider conducting advanced follow-up programmes on emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture, data analytics, entrepreneurship, leadership, and international career opportunities.

As we know that the NYPDP Plus program is coming very soon so really excited and looking forward for this plus program.



Ms. Sathi Saw
M.Sc.(Agricultural Extension)
ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
e-mail: sathi.saw001@gmail.com

MANAGE - Center for Agricultural Extension Innovations, Reforms and Agripreneurship (MANAGE- CAEIRA)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA
<https://www.manage.gov.in/caeira/caeira.asp>