



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



“Rooted in purpose, growing with passion” – inspired by MANAGE ‘s motto

Lavanya Shree M

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, (KVAFSU) BIDAR, Karnataka September 8-12, 2025

 [Lavanya Shree Murugesan](#)

Key Learnings

The five-day program was thoughtfully designed, starting with introductions and competency building, and moving toward applied learning, gender inclusion, research, and monitoring. This step-by-step approach helped participants gradually develop their knowledge and skills. Engaging activities like the World Café, Extension Marketplace, Incubation Center visit, and Focus Group demonstration provided hands-on learning alongside classroom sessions. Experts from MANAGE, KVAFSU, IVRI, IGNOU, and international institutions led the sessions, offering both national and global perspectives. The topics covered like digital competencies, policy advocacy, gender mainstreaming, and startups, addressed the present and future needs of agricultural extension. Regular recap sessions encouraged active participation and reflection, helping participants better understand and apply what they learned.



Day 1

The opening day of the NYPDP was a power-packed beginning, setting the stage with inspiring insights into the scope of Agricultural Extension. Sessions explored emerging competencies, career opportunities and skill requirements to meet global challenges.



Day 2

It was dedicated to future-focused learning, exploring how agricultural extension will evolve in the future. New Gen extension methods and competencies, research priorities in Agricultural Extension, democratizing innovation through incubation and startups. The extension marketplace, where participants pitched research ideas as products, helped us imagine the future of extension systems. The session on Digital Competencies by Dr. Ambarish was particularly enriching, emphasizing the importance of technology in shaping the future of extension. The day inspired us to think innovatively and recognize the role of youth in driving digital transformation.

Day 3

The day offered a blend of applied learning and field exposure. Sessions emphasized the growing importance of organic farming, entrepreneurship, and inclusive approaches in extension. The visit to the RKVY-RAFTAAR Incubation Center, provided first-hand insights into the startup ecosystem. The day ended with an exploration of Bengaluru, offering informal opportunities for networking and team bonding. Overall, it was a day of practical engagement and real-world application of classroom learning.

Day 4

The fourth day focused on career opportunities and inclusiveness in extension. Sessions provided exposure to global academic pathways, graduate study and career opportunities in the U.S. shared by international scholars, methodological shifts from traditional to Next-Gen research approaches, policy advocacy for young professionals and gender mainstreaming in agricultural extension, shaping future competencies and career directions.



Day 5

The final day emphasized aligning research with field realities through monitoring and evaluation and participatory tools. Sessions by Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar on monitoring and evaluation and focus group discussions provided practical techniques that we can apply in our professional journey

Training Experience



Networking

The program was enriching and insightful, offering a perfect balance of practical exposure, collaborative discussion and expert guidance. Each day brought fresh perspectives, encouraged critical thinking, and fostered meaningful connections that will continue to influence my professional journey. The sessions were handled by professionals from the international organizations. We could interact with different working zones of people. I established good connections with people from different states, varied graduates, which enriched my learning experience and different perspectives of people and sparked new ideas for collaboration and research.



Change in Perspective

Before attending this training program, I had an opinion that after graduating from Agricultural Extension, I had to opt for Assistant Professor or prepare for competitive exams, but this program completely changed my perspective. Now I see Agricultural Extension as an interdisciplinary field that integrates and involves all other fields. It is a global subject, and the subject also has different subgroups, from which focusing on any one section can give specialization and job opportunities.

What I Appreciate

Before attending this training program, I had an opinion that after graduating from Agricultural Extension, I had to opt for Assistant Professor or prepare for competitive exams, but this program completely changed my perspective. Now I see Agricultural Extension as an interdisciplinary field that integrates and involves all other fields. It is a global subject, and the subject also has different subgroups, from which focusing on any one section can give specialization and job opportunities.

Main Takeaway

A major highlight of the program was the session by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agri. Extension), MANAGE. His inspiring journey and the way he explained things by interlinking to our routine life and making us get involved made us bound to the program. His words on self-motivation and personal excellence left a lasting impact. The powerful message “WHEN WE START MOTIVATED, NOBODY STOPS US” reinforced the importance of self-encouragement.



Action plan

Now I have the responsibility to apply the knowledge and skills gained during this program to my research and future career. This program ignited my passion for extension and provided me with insights to move forward with renewed clarity



The overall experience can be summarized as quite enriching, as it provided valuable opportunities for participants to interact with peers from different states, engage in group activities, and learn from experienced resource persons. The training was a memorable and transformative journey of learning and networking, emphasizing how it built professional connections and knowledge for success in the future.



Ms. Lavnya Shree M

M. Sc (Agricultural Extension)

Department of Agricultural Extension

College of Agriculture, GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences

Bengaluru, Karnataka.

e-mail: lavnyamurugesh1512@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>