

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 74

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# National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

## Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



### MANAGE NYPDP – A JOURNEY FROM SEEKING TO BECOMING

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad during December 22-27, 2025.

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## Key Learnings

The NYPDP journey began not with certainty, but with curiosity. What unfolded over five days was not merely a training programme, but a gradual awakening of purpose, perspective, and professional identity.

The start set the tone by redefining how challenges are perceived. What initially appeared as obstacles revealed themselves as latent opportunities waiting to be sought. The programme instilled a belief that opportunities are not found by chance, but by intent. Through immersive group activities, creativity was sparked, and invisible barriers, of language, culture, and background, were gently dissolved. Participants were united under the shared umbrella of agricultural extension, discovering its true expanse beyond textbooks and classrooms. The intellectual brilliance of the speakers, paired with the humility of senior professionals, became a quiet but powerful source of inspiration.



Each subsequent day carried its own distinct experience, reinforcing learning through interaction, reflection, and collective growth. The programme consistently pushed participants to think beyond conventional boundaries, revealing the extended reality of extension as a living, evolving discipline.

## A Five-Day Experience that Reshaped Identity

The overall training experience was transformative. It went beyond skill-building and entered the realm of self-discovery. The programme cultivated not just better professionals, but better individuals. It demonstrated what it truly means to behave, think, and act as an extension professional in real-world contexts.

Exposure to institutional functioning, global organisations, and diverse career pathways shattered the myth of extension being limited to routine academic roles. Instead, it revealed a landscape rich with opportunities. Equally impactful was the deep introspection it encouraged, recognising personal strengths, acknowledging weaknesses, learning to express oneself, break internal barriers, volunteer proactively, and engage fully in both professional and personal development.



## Change in Perspective

Before the training, agricultural extension often felt overshadowed by “pure sciences,” perceived as secondary or inferior. NYPDP dismantled this misconception entirely. Extension emerged as a discipline without borders, diverse, globally relevant, and integrative. It became clear that extension is not confined to one domain; it connects all domains. A true “jack of all arts,” extension demands a rare combination of skills and competencies, making it something to be deeply proud of and not easily mastered by all.



## Atmosphere and Environment

The training environment itself was exceptional. From extraordinary accommodation to thoughtfully designed learning spaces, every detail reflected professionalism and inclusivity. Participants were intentionally mixed beyond familiar institutional groups, encouraging genuine interaction and mutual learning. Individual identities were respected, and collective participation was ensured. The atmosphere fostered curiosity, ambition, and a hunger to learn more. It quietly instilled a determination to one day reach positions of similar influence and impact.



## Key Highlights of the Program



What stood out most was the emotional connect the programme created. NYPDP was not just instructional; it was deeply human. It carried a sense of responsibility, accountability, and credibility, reminding participants that who they are matters as much as what they do. It felt like a holistic package aimed at complete upliftment, not merely technical training.

## Peer Interactions and Networking

Peer interactions became a powerful learning space. Exposure to diverse extension models, regional perspectives, and innovative practices broadened understanding immensely. Beyond professional exchange, there was cultural sharing, laughter, warmth, and emotional bonding. These interactions created one of the richest networking experiences encountered so far, one that extended learning far beyond formal sessions.



## Most Significant Takeaway

The strongest realization was simple yet profound: self-empowerment is a personal responsibility. Opportunities do not arrive uninvited; they must be sought. Confidence grows through action, not waiting. Volunteering dissolved timidness, reignited self-belief, and reaffirmed capability. Extension revealed itself as not a destination, but the starting point, the foundational architecture upon which agriculture itself is built.



## Application of Learning



The impact of NYPDP did not end with the programme. It translated immediately into action, actively seeking internships aligned with research, expanding professional networks, redesigning research pathways, and moving beyond monotonous academic thinking. Research is now viewed through the lenses of farmers, policymakers, and systems alike, with a firm resolve that it should generate actionable insights, not remain confined to a thesis document.

## My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

A journey that began with skepticism,  
And expectations grounded in the ordinary,  
Was transformed by a first stride of hospitality,  
Revealing the depth of a rare specialty.

Diversity blended with integrity, Activities shaping  
accountability and credibility. Timidity faded, confidence  
grew, The destination became clear, the path felt true.

NYPDP is not just another training,  
It is an awakening—profound and enduring.



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