



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Expanding Horizons: My Transformational Learning Experience at MANAGE NYPDP

Ms. Jeya Shree K

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

 **Jeyashree K**

Key Learnings

Self-Discovery and Understanding the Changing Nature of Extension

Day 1

The first day was not just an introduction to the program, but an introduction to myself as an emerging extension professional. It made me realise that before understanding the field, it is important to understand our own strengths, interests, and goals.

The sessions highlighted how agricultural extension is no longer confined to advisory services but is expanding into multiple domains such as policy, entrepreneurship, digital communication, and global development. This shift made me reflect on how I need to continuously upgrade my competencies to remain relevant.

The group activities helped me analyse my own capabilities and understand the importance of specialization. I realised that instead of trying to learn everything superficially, focusing deeply on a specific area can help in building expertise and confidence. Overall, the first day created a strong base by encouraging self-awareness, clarity in career direction, and openness to learning.

Digital Competencies and Relevance of Modern Extension Approaches

Day 2

The second day strongly emphasised the role of technology in agricultural extension. I understood that extension professionals today must go beyond traditional communication methods and adopt digital platforms, data analysis tools, and innovative communication strategies.

The discussions on research priorities gave me a broader understanding of current global challenges such as climate change, sustainability, food security, and rural livelihoods. It made me realise that extension is directly linked to solving real-world problems and improving farmers' lives.



One of the most important learnings for me was how ideas can be structured and presented effectively. The practical exercises showed how to convert a general idea into a clear concept with defined objectives, target audience, and expected outcomes. This day helped me understand that creativity, clarity, and practical thinking are essential qualities for an extension professional.

Strengthening Research Skills and Inclusive Thinking

Day 3

The third day was more intensive and focused on research and evaluation methods. It helped me understand how scientific approaches can be used to study problems, collect information, and make informed decisions.

I learned that research is not just about collecting data but about understanding relationships, analysing patterns, and drawing meaningful conclusions. The sessions also highlighted the importance of evaluating programs to measure their effectiveness and impact.



An important takeaway for me was the role of qualitative methods in understanding people's behaviour, perceptions, and experiences. It made me realise that numbers alone cannot explain everything, especially in social sciences like agricultural extension.

The discussions on gender equality and entrepreneurship made me think about the social dimension of extension. I understood that extension should not only focus on productivity but also on inclusiveness, empowerment, and equity.

This day helped me develop a more balanced perspective towards research by combining both scientific and human aspects.

Exposure to Development Sector and Advanced Analytical Thinking

Day 4

The fourth day gave me exposure to opportunities beyond academic and government sectors. I realised that agricultural extension professionals can play significant roles in NGOs, development organisations, and private sectors.

The sessions on analytical tools introduced me to new ways of studying relationships, communication patterns, and information flow among stakeholders. This made me understand that extension is not only about delivering information but also about understanding networks and interactions within communities.

The field exposure was particularly interesting because it helped me connect theoretical concepts with real-life practices. Observing practical applications made me realise the importance of innovation, management, and entrepreneurial thinking in agriculture.

This day broadened my outlook and made me more open to exploring diverse career paths in extension.



Policy Orientation, Innovation and Future Direction

Day 5

The final day helped me understand how agricultural extension is connected with policy-making and innovation systems. I realised that extension professionals can influence decision-making processes by providing evidence-based inputs and ground-level insights.

The sessions on innovation and incubation showed how new ideas can be developed into practical solutions that benefit farmers and rural communities. It made me understand the importance of linking research with action.

The reflection activities at the end of the program were very meaningful. They made me think about what I have learned, how I can apply it, and what changes I need to make in myself.

This day gave me clarity about my future direction and motivated me to work with more purpose and commitment.

A Five-Day Experience

The entire training program was a highly enriching and transformative experience for me. Each day added a new dimension to my understanding and gradually built a comprehensive perspective of agricultural extension.



The program was well-structured, with a good balance between theoretical knowledge, practical exposure, and interactive sessions. Unlike regular classroom learning, this training encouraged active participation, critical thinking, and reflection.

I found the sessions to be engaging, informative, and relevant to current agricultural and societal needs. The learning environment motivated me to think differently and challenge my existing assumptions. Overall, the experience was not only academically beneficial but also personally enriching.

Change in Perspective

Before attending this training, I had a limited understanding of agricultural extension. I mainly viewed it as a system for transferring technologies from scientists to farmers.

However, after attending NYPDP, my perspective has changed significantly. I now see extension as a dynamic and multidisciplinary field that integrates research, innovation, communication, policy, and social development.

I understood that extension professionals act as a link between different stakeholders such as farmers, researchers, institutions, and policymakers. Their role is not only to share information but also to facilitate change, solve problems, and support decision-making.

This shift in perspective has made me more interested and confident in pursuing a career in this field.

Training Environment

The training environment was highly supportive, interactive, and motivating. The sessions were conducted in a way that encouraged participation and open discussion.



The atmosphere was friendly yet professional, which made it easy for me to express my thoughts and ask questions. The facilities and organisation of the program were also well-managed, contributing to a comfortable learning experience.

This positive environment played a significant role in enhancing my learning and engagement throughout the program.

What I Appreciated Most

One of the aspects I appreciated the most was the practical orientation of the program. The sessions were not limited to theoretical concepts but included real-life examples, case discussions, and interactive activities.



The expertise and approach of the resource persons made a strong impact on my learning. Their ability to simplify complex topics and relate them to real situations made the sessions more meaningful.

I also appreciated the focus on emerging areas such as digital extension, innovation, and policy engagement, which are highly relevant for future professionals.

Peer Interaction and Networking

Interacting with participants from different regions and academic backgrounds was a valuable experience. It gave me exposure to diverse ideas, perspectives, and experiences.

These interactions helped me improve my communication skills and gain confidence in expressing my views. I also learned how collaboration and teamwork can enhance learning and problem-solving.

The connections built during this program will be helpful for future academic and professional opportunities.

Key Takeaways

- Agricultural extension is evolving into a multidisciplinary and dynamic field
- Digital and analytical skills are essential for modern extension professionals
- Research should focus on solving real-world problems
- Inclusiveness and social responsibility are important in extension work
- Continuous learning and adaptability are necessary for professional growth

Action Plan

After attending this training, I have developed a clearer vision for my future. I plan to:

- Strengthen my research skills, especially in evaluation and qualitative methods
- Learn and apply digital tools in extension activities
- Focus on a specialised area within agricultural extension
- Participate in more training programs to enhance my knowledge
- Apply the learnings from this program in my academic and field work





Ms. Jeya Shree K
M.Sc. Agricultural Extension Education
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
jeyashreekalidoss@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>