

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 103

April 2026



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



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



BHAVANI VENKAT PRASAD RATHOD

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

The National Youth Programme on Development Policies (NYPDP) conducted at National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management provided me with a valuable opportunity to gain a high-level understanding of agricultural and rural development policies in India. The programme served as an important platform to explore how policies are designed, implemented, and evaluated in the context of a rapidly evolving agricultural sector.

Through my participation in NYPDP, I was exposed to diverse perspectives shared by experts, policymakers, and practitioners. The sessions offered insights into key areas such as agricultural extension, rural development strategies, climate resilience, and institutional frameworks. This experience helped me understand the broader policy environment and the interconnected nature of various factors influencing agricultural development.

This diary is a reflection of my learning experience throughout the programme. It presents a systematic account of the sessions attended, key concepts understood, and my personal observations and reflections. By documenting my experiences, I have attempted to connect theoretical knowledge with practical insights gained during the programme

Understanding the Role of the New-Generation Extension Professional

Day 1

The first day of the programme focused on redefining the role of extension professionals in the contemporary agricultural landscape. The sessions emphasized that extension today is not limited to the transfer of technology but encompasses facilitation, communication, policy engagement, and systems thinking.

I realized that to remain relevant and effective, an extension professional must continuously upgrade skills related to leadership, digital literacy, and stakeholder coordination.

The interactive discussions encouraged self-reflection regarding my own preparedness for professional responsibilities. I became aware of the gap between academic learning and field-level expectations, which highlighted the need for continuous capacity building. This session strengthened my motivation to proactively develop competencies essential for a successful career in extension and rural development.

Research Priorities, Digital Competencies, and Incubation Ecosystems

Day 2

The second day provided in-depth exposure to demand-driven research and the growing importance of digital tools in extension services. The sessions clarified how research outcomes can influence policy formulation and development interventions when aligned with ground-level needs. I gained valuable insights into the application of ICT tools, digital advisory platforms, and data-based decision-making in agriculture.

A key learning outcome of the day was understanding the role of agribusiness incubation centres in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The discussions broadened my perception of extension as a support system not only for farmers but also for aspiring agripreneurs. This encouraged me to consider entrepreneurship and innovation as integral components of extension education.

Organic Agriculture, Gender Sensitivity, and Entrepreneurship

Day 3

The third day emphasized sustainability, inclusiveness, and empowerment. Sessions on organic agriculture highlighted its potential in ensuring environmental sustainability and farmer profitability, while also addressing challenges related to certification and market access. I understood the crucial role of extension professionals in promoting awareness and facilitating the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

The discussions on gender sensitivity were particularly impactful. They reinforced the importance of recognizing women as central contributors to agriculture and rural livelihoods. I reflected on the need to design extension programmes that are gender-responsive and inclusive. Additionally, the focus on entrepreneurship inspired me to think creatively about rural enterprise development and self-employment opportunities for youth.

Global Perspectives and Methodological Advancements

Day 4

Day four broadened my academic horizon by exposing me to global extension systems and international best practices. Learning about extension models in developed countries helped me understand diverse institutional frameworks and career opportunities. This exposure motivated me to aspire for excellence in research and explore global collaborations.

The sessions on advanced research methodologies and emerging digital tools reinforced the importance of methodological rigor and innovation. I realized that continuous learning and adaptability are essential for sustaining academic and professional growth in extension education.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Evidence-Based Extension

Day 5

The final day focused on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) as a critical component of extension programmes. Practical sessions demonstrated how M&E contributes to accountability, learning, and impact assessment. I gained clarity on the use of indicators, baselines, and evaluation tools to measure programme effectiveness. This session reinforced the importance of evidence-based extension, where decisions are informed by data and documented outcomes.

The learnings from this day will be valuable in designing and implementing effective extension and development interventions in the future.

Peer Interaction

In NYPDP, students came from multiple states, and students are from multiple language backgrounds. Because of this, interaction between student was minimal, but it did not continue long. Everyone started interacting with each other irrespective of their language. We participated and completed many tasks as groups with good coordination. I made many good friends from Tamilnadu , Maharastra, Orissa and UP. I built good relations with all the NYPDP participants. I went on an outing on Christmas eve, we visited many places in Hyderabad like the Birla Temple, the Buddha statue, and biryani. It was a splendid outing; we enjoyed ourselves a lot that day.

My friends are very selfless; even though they are far away, they are ready to help me whenever I am in need, academically and with thesis too. I feel very happy that I got these kinds of friends, I thank MANAGE for the NYPDP program, which gave me these friends.



Learning Environment and Professional Networking

The participatory learning environment of the programme facilitated meaningful interaction and peer learning. Engaging with participants from diverse academic and professional backgrounds enriched my perspectives and strengthened my communication skills. The networking opportunities provided a platform for future academic and professional collaboration.



Key Takeaway

The programme highlighted the importance of integrating research, extension, and policy for sustainable agricultural development.

Action Plan

As a future professional, I plan to strengthen my research competencies, enhance digital skills, and actively engage in extension activities. I also intend to focus on academic writing, policy-oriented research, and inclusive development approaches.





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