



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Shaping the Next Frontier of Agricultural Extension

Suriya Parth Mukeshbhai

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Anand Agricultural University (AAU) Gujarat, during September 22–26, 2025



[Parth Suriya](#)

Key Learnings

The program began with an introduction to MANAGE's vision and the NYPDP journey by Team MANAGE. Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), delivered an inspiring session on New Competencies and Job Opportunities in Agricultural Extension. His focus on facilitation and professional specialization helped me recognize my strengths. Later, his session on Agri-Innovation through Incubation and Startups highlighted practical pathways for agripreneurship. The day concluded with motivating alumni experiences that provided valuable insights into career growth.



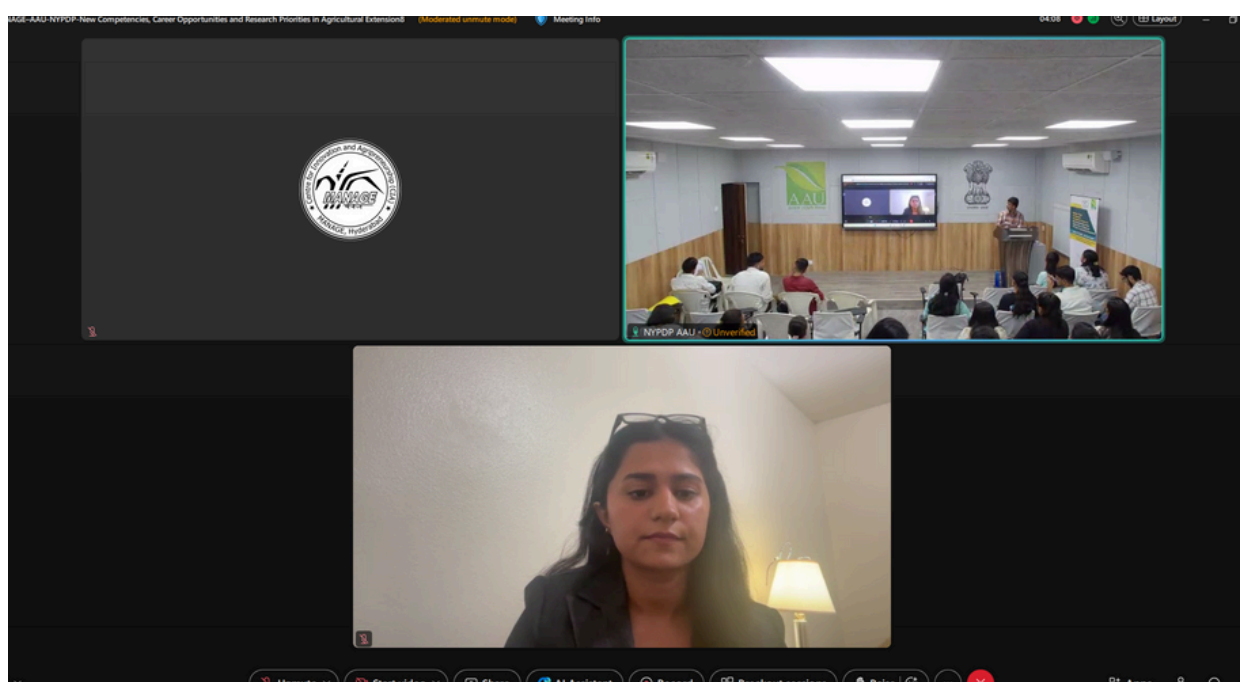
Day 2

We explored Research Priorities and Frontiers in Extension. Dr. Vidya Vemireddy (IIM Ahmedabad) highlighted research methodologies relevant for young scholars, while Dr. Shambu Prasad (IRMA) discussed institutional innovations and social science approaches. The session by Mr. Srajesh Gupta (C-GEM, Gujarat) on Extension in the Times of Climate Change was thought-provoking, linking extension with resilience, markets and policy.



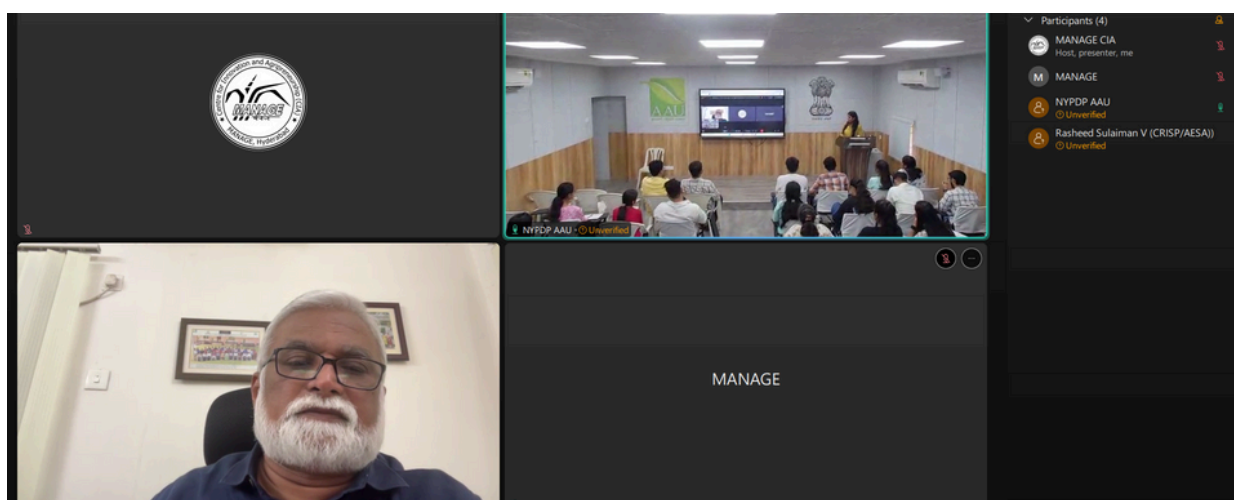
Day 3

The day began with sessions on higher education and professional prospects by Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi (Texas A&M University, USA), Mr. Samrat Sikdar (Mississippi State University, USA) and Dr. Parmveer Singh (Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Saskatchewan, Canada). Their honest sharing of academic journeys was truly inspiring. Dr. Mahesh Chander (IVRI) introduced us to organic farming and entrepreneurship, highlighting opportunities in sustainable agriculture. Later, Dr. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee (IWMI, Anand) guided us on policy pathways and engagement competencies. The highlight of the day was the field visit to AMUL and a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), which provided practical exposure to cooperative models.



Day 4

Sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation were delivered by Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar (IGNOU, New Delhi). His demonstration on Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) was one of the most valuable hands-on exercises of the program. Later, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman (CRISP, Hyderabad) guided us on policy engagement in extension. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar (CTCRI) introduced us to emerging research approaches in scaling and measurement, highlighting how social science research can effectively adapt to new challenges.



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We concluded with insightful sessions on Social Science Research and Knowledge Management by Dr. Krithika Sundaram (Shroff Foundation, Gujarat). Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), delivered an engaging session on next-generation research methods. The reflections on the Digital Future of Extension Professionals broadened my perspective on the evolving role of ICTs in the sector. Writing the Commitment Cards (Head, Heart, Hands) was a meaningful way to conclude, allowing us to pledge our learnings for practical application.

Five-Day Training Experience

The program was designed with a perfect balance of expert lectures, interactive sessions, group activities and field visits. Each day added new learning dimensions, keeping us inspired and engaged.



Change in Perspective

Before NYPDP, I viewed agricultural extension mainly as technology transfer. After this training, I realized that extension is truly multidimensional—encompassing facilitation, communication, entrepreneurship, inclusivity, digital innovations, and policy engagement. This experience transformed my perspective from being a “knowledge provider” to becoming a “facilitator of change.”

Atmosphere and Environment

The environment at AAU was collaborative, positive, and intellectually stimulating. Faculty members and mentors were approachable, and peer discussions created a strong sense of community.



What I Appreciated Most

I appreciated the thoughtfully structured sessions by leading experts, the exposure to alumni stories and the integration of research, practice and policy. The balance of classroom learning with field visits was especially impactful.



Peer Interactions and Networking

Peer interactions during group tasks, extension marketplace activities and informal discussions enriched my learning. I gained valuable friendships and professional networks that will support collaboration in the future.



Most Significant Takeaway

The most significant realization is that agricultural extension is the backbone of sustainable rural transformation. It is not limited to technology dissemination but also embraces empathy, inclusivity, innovation, and research.



Application of Learning



- Apply participatory approaches like FGDs and Farmer Field Schools.
- Use ICT tools and digital platforms for inclusive extension services.
- Mentor youth and women in agripreneurship and agri-startups.
- Share my NYPDP learnings with peers and farmers in Junagadh to achieve broader outreach.



A transformative and inspiring journey that broadened my perspective, strengthened my competencies and connected me with mentors and peers who will guide my path in agricultural extension.

Mr. Suriya Parth Mukeshbhai

MSc (Agriculture Extension Education)
Junagadh Agricultural University, Gujarat
e-mail: suriyaparth9978@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>



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