



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Ms. Vishmaya J

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad during June 09-13, 2025.

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Key Learnings

Day 1

The first day began with an inspiring welcome, setting the tone for the program. Dr. Saravanan Raj introduced MANAGE's vision and outlined career pathways in agricultural extension, along with essential skills for growth. Interactive workshops on time management and group problem-solving provided practical learning. The key takeaway was that success in agricultural extension requires both technical expertise and strong emotional intelligence with systems thinking.



Day 2

The second day focused on the rapidly evolving landscape of agricultural extension driven by digital transformation. We explored key areas such as digital tools, agri-tech, sustainability, research, policy, social media, and communication models like the “4 Cs” from Dr. Saravanan Raj. Ms Iniya V presented on agri-tech startups in Tamil Nadu and their role in rural empowerment, while Dr. Sethuraman simplified research methodologies.

Dr Ramanjaneyulu emphasised the importance of climate resilience alongside food security, and Dr Rasheed Sulaiman highlighted the significance of public-private partnerships and policy engagement. Dr Aditya Sinha introduced advanced AI tools for research.

Day 3

The day brought together hands-on field experience with insightful academic sessions. At Access Livelihoods, we gained insights into how farmer groups, particularly women-led ones, build inclusive and sustainable enterprises, with Mr Rakesh sharing practical grassroots perspectives. Ms Divina Matla discussed traditional food systems, emphasising the significance of local knowledge and tools like Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping. Dr Saravanan Raj spoke on inclusive agri-entrepreneurship, highlighting the role of youth innovation hubs, while Dr. Mahesh Chander focused on the importance of authenticity in organic farming, entrepreneurship, and gender equity.

Day 4

The day provided international exposure, with Dr. Vikram Koundinya (UC Davis), Mr. Samrat Sikdar (Mississippi State University), and Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi (Texas A&M) sharing their global academic journeys and useful advice for aspiring scholars.



Dr Parmveer Singh (University of Saskatchewan) highlighted the importance of mentorship, while Dr. Arun Balamatti (ICRISAT) discussed current research priorities and key skills needed in extension. The visit to C-DAC was highly informative, demonstrating how AI, cybersecurity, and big data are shaping modern agriculture.

Day 5

The final day combined reflection with practical insights on research, monitoring and evaluation, and professional development. Dr. Raahalya introduced key research metrics like the H-index, while Prof. Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar explained M&E tools, and Ms. Anamika Sharma covered value chain extension and network analysis. Dr. Sindhura's session on mental well-being was timely, and Dr. Saravanan Raj connected research priorities with global issues like climate change and food systems. The day provided a meaningful conclusion to the program, leaving us with valuable knowledge and lasting impressions.



A Five-Day Experience

The five-day training was an enriching and transformative experience that went beyond conventional academic learning. Each session contributed to expanding my understanding, while interactions with experts and peers made the experience more dynamic and engaging. Overall, it was a journey that enhanced both my professional outlook and personal confidence.

Change in Perspective

Yes, the training significantly transformed my perspective. Through this program, my understanding expanded as I became more aware of the current status of the extension system, recent research advancements, and the wide range of emerging opportunities in the field.



It helped me recognise how agricultural extension is continuously evolving, driven by innovation, new research insights, and changing societal needs. I also gained a clearer idea of potential career paths and areas for further study within this domain.

Training Environment

The atmosphere throughout the training was highly positive, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating. The well-structured sessions, supportive faculty, and active participation from peers created a vibrant learning environment.

The dedicated coordination and constant encouragement provided by Dr Saravanan Raj and Dr Raahalya created a welcoming and motivating atmosphere throughout the program. The campus facilities, organisation, and hospitality further enhanced the overall experience, making it both comfortable and motivating.



What I Appreciated Most

What I appreciated most about the program was its holistic and well-structured approach. The diverse topics covered in the programme gave me a comprehensive understanding of the field and also helped me gain insights into the current scenario, including emerging trends and challenges in agricultural extension.

I sincerely thank MANAGE and all the resource persons for organising such an enriching program. Their guidance and expertise created an engaging learning environment. Overall, this program was a valuable opportunity for both personal and professional growth, helping me enhance my skills, broaden my perspectives, and develop greater confidence.

Peer Interactions and Networking

The program offered me a valuable opportunity to engage with participants from varied academic disciplines and diverse regional backgrounds. Interacting with them was not just informative but deeply enriching. Through these discussions and shared experiences, I was able to broaden my own understanding and think beyond my familiar environment.



It helped me appreciate how agriculture and fisheries issues can vary significantly across regions, yet also share common underlying concerns. Furthermore, these interactions extended beyond mere academic discussions and allowed me to develop professional networks. I feel assured that these connections have the potential to grow into valuable collaborations in the future, fostering ongoing learning, the sharing of ideas, and mutual support throughout our professional paths.

Most Significant Takeaway

My most significant takeaways from the training were that agricultural extension goes far beyond simply transferring technology or information to farmers. It is fundamentally an interdisciplinary and people-focused domain that demands a holistic approach.



- Effective extension work requires not only technical expertise but also strong interpersonal and communication skills to engage with diverse farming communities.
- Empathy and cultural sensitivity are essential, as understanding farmers' real-life challenges, beliefs, and local contexts greatly influences the success of any intervention.
- The training highlighted the importance of participatory approaches, where farmers are seen as active partners rather than passive recipients of knowledge.

Application of knowledge and skills

I plan to apply the knowledge and skills gained by adopting innovative and technology-driven approaches in extension activities. This includes using digital tools for effective communication, promoting sustainable and climate-resilient practices, and applying research methodologies such as monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Apply different methods, such as focus group discussions, in future research to ensure effective data collection. I also aim to explore opportunities in aquapreneurship and actively collaborate with peers and mentors to contribute to rural development.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

My MANAGE NYPDP journey was a transformative experience that reshaped my understanding of agricultural extension. It strengthened my skills, broadened my vision, and inspired me to contribute meaningfully to the field. It was not just a training program, but a stepping stone toward becoming a more competent and responsible extension professional.



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