



## National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

### Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



#### NYPDP: A Catalyst for Personal and Professional Growth

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

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## Key Learnings



Joining this training has cleared most of my doubts. One of my biggest weaknesses as an Agricultural Extension student was not being able to figure out what job opportunities or career scopes I had in my subject. This program made me realize that, as Extension professionals, we have more opportunities compared to many other agricultural disciplines. We are not confined to agriculture alone but can explore a wide range of roles in various organizations.

The group projects made me feel included and taught me how to collaborate effectively as part of a team, as well as contribute as an individual. As a first-year Ph.D. student, I was struggling to decide on my research topic. However, listening to the stories and field experiences shared by the speakers helped me realize how we, as Extension students, can contribute to improving the lives of farmers. The sessions helped me discover what I truly want to do for my Ph.D. research.

The training opened my eyes to the crucial role Extension agents play in supporting farmers and rural communities, and how our work can influence policymakers. The session on “AI Tools for Academic Research” was especially beneficial, as it will be helpful during my research. I now believe that, in today’s world, we should be aware of AI tools to work more efficiently.

The visit to Access Livelihoods gave me an understanding of how the organization operates and how it works hand-in-hand with farmers. This experience helped me see farmers from a new perspective. I’m also grateful for the opportunity to be part of a focus group discussion, it was a unique and insightful experience.

## Training Experience

If I were to describe the five-day training program in one word, it would be “productive.” I believe I learned much more than I expected. The training was intensive and tiring, but it also taught me many new things.

Interacting with students from different parts of India was a new and enriching experience. I learned a great deal from their perspectives. This training has boosted my confidence as an Agricultural Extension student and brought me a step closer to my goals. Various speakers shared their field experiences, and listening to their stories inspired me. It made me see my subject in a completely new light.

## Change in Perspective

The training has significantly changed my perspective on Agricultural Extension. I now understand its importance not just in bridging the gap between farmers and research institutions, but also in areas like advisory services, policy engagement, gender sensitivity, capacity building, and addressing climate change.



The training made me realize the vast number of job opportunities available in this field and how flexible these roles can be. It emphasized how essential our work is, not just for the farming community but for the broader rural society and how we can help improve their quality of life. Listening to the speakers' sessions opened my eyes to many potential research areas and how our research can make a real impact on society.

## Training Environment

The atmosphere and environment during the training were excellent, far beyond my expectations. Most of the sessions were interactive, which made them engaging and interesting. Dr. Raahalya, Dr. Saravanan Raj, and their team were very enthusiastic and always ready to help.

The seating arrangement, lighting, and classroom setup were very comfortable. Even the weather in Hyderabad added positively to the overall experience. The accommodation and food were among the best I've had in any training program I've attended. Overall, the program was well-organized and exceeded my expectations.

## What I Appreciate

What I appreciated most about the training were the offline interactive sessions. They were incredibly insightful and thought-provoking. The passion, enthusiasm, and dedication of the speakers while delivering their lectures deeply touched and inspired me. Their insights and real-life experiences were impactful and helped me gain new perspectives.

## Networking

This training provided me with a platform to connect with people from different parts of India. Peer interactions helped me understand diverse cultures and the challenges faced in different regions. I learned about the differences in how our universities operate, where my institution excels, and where it might be lacking compared to others.



The chance to engage with working professionals also gave me valuable insights into their roles and working environments. These interactions helped me learn a lot beyond the classroom.

## Main Takeaway

My most significant takeaway from this training is that grassroots needs must be addressed in alignment with policy frameworks, and the involvement of youth in agriculture is more urgent than ever. Through the interactive sessions, field visits, and real-life experiences shared by speakers, my understanding of Extension has deepened, and my perspective has broadened. This training helped me realize the transformative power of Agricultural Extension Education and its importance in shaping rural livelihoods.

## Action Plan

This training has exposed me to a wide variety of potential research topics that I'm genuinely interested in. It has helped me finalize what I want to focus on for my Ph.D. research. The knowledge I've gained about job opportunities and required competencies will help me determine the career path that suits me best. I also hope to use what I've learned to guide my juniors and colleagues, helping them clarify their doubts and make informed decisions about their future in Agricultural Extension.





If I were to describe this training in a few words, I would say it was intensive, purposeful, and productive.

- Intensive, because the training was focused, thorough, and packed with learning in a short period of time.
- Purposeful, because it helped address the doubts and uncertainties many of us had about our subject.
- Productive, because I learned in five days what I hadn't been able to learn over the past few years.

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