



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Changing Mindsets, Shaping Futures: Five Days that Transformed My Understanding of Agricultural Extension at MANAGE NYPDP

Keithellakpam Chanakya

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

 **Keithellakpam Chanakya**



Day 1: The first day of the NYPDP training program began with an inspiring session by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE. He shared his journey in agricultural extension, motivating us to celebrate even the small wins and to never miss out on any opportunity. It was an eye-opening session that gave me a deeper understanding of the diverse job opportunities in the field and the skills required for each. Later, Dr. Meghajit Sharma led an engaging group discussion and presentation activity. This session encouraged teamwork and idea-sharing, helped us build connections with fellow participants.

Day 2: The second day focused on the role of social media in agricultural extension and its influence on farming practices. We also gained insights into extension research and the importance of ecological agriculture. A key highlight was learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for research, understanding how they can enhance our academic work. In addition, we explored the role of agricultural policies and why it's vital for extension professionals to engage in policy-making. We even learned how to write effective policy briefs that can contribute to sectoral improvements.

Day 3: We visited Access Livelihoods, a social enterprise working to empower marginalized communities by building sustainable livelihoods. Their focus on supporting women-led producer enterprises was especially inspiring, as they guide these groups from formation to full-scale business development. We also explored Agri-Startup programs, which support young agripreneurs in shaping the future of agriculture through innovation. Another highlight was learning about the Agri-Business Incubator Model for Women in Agriculture and Food Systems in Malawi, which provided a valuable global perspective.



Day 4: The fourth day focused on career opportunities in extension education abroad. Dr. Arun Balamatti, Senior Manager at ICRISAT, delivered an insightful session on global career paths, research priorities, and the current agricultural landscape in India. He also shared personal experiences from the JSS Agri Clinic, making the session especially impactful.

In the evening, we visited C-DAC Hyderabad, where we explored the world of cybersecurity and AI applications, a fascinating and futuristic dimension of agricultural extension.

Day 5: The final day featured a session by Dr. Raahalya, who shared practical insights on research methodologies based on her own experience. We also had the privilege of learning from Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar, Professor, School of Extension and Development Studies, IGNOU. His session on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) included a focus group discussion (FGD). This was a valuable and eye-opening experience that helped us understand how FGDs function in real-world research.

This five-day training was a transformative experience. Each day brought new perspectives and learning opportunities. Sessions with experts and the field visits were both enriching and enjoyable. Interacting with leaders in the field of agricultural extension expanded my understanding and has significantly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

Training Experience



Change in Perspective

Initially, I believed that job opportunities in extension were limited to becoming a professor, Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), scientist (ARS), or working in the banking sector. I thought extension education was simply about transferring technology from the lab to the field. However, through this program, I've come to realize that the role of an extensionist is much broader. Our field is powerful, we are not just communicators but facilitators of development, innovation, and empowerment. As extension students, we must champion our subject and showcase its vast impact and relevance.

Training Environment

The training environment was beyond expectations. The green, peaceful surroundings, combined with well-organized accommodations and meals, created a perfect setting for learning.



The MANAGE team's hospitality was commendable. Engaging sessions, expert interactions, and the opportunity to create memories through photos and videos made this experience not just educational but also joyful and memorable.

What I Appreciate



I deeply appreciate MANAGE NYPDP for organizing such a well-curated and impactful program. The sessions conducted by leading experts in agricultural extension were motivating, thought-provoking, and perspective-changing. I also valued the interaction with participants from various states, learning from their ideas, sharing my own, and discovering the diversity of approaches in extension across the country.



One of the most rewarding aspects of the training was the peer interaction. Meeting participants from different cultural backgrounds introduced me to new ideas, dialects, and ways of thinking.

This was my first experience in such a diverse and vibrant learning environment, and it helped me make new friends, broaden my worldview, and gain a sense of unity in diversity. These connections will remain special.



Main Takeaway

The most significant takeaway for me was realizing the vast scope of career and research opportunities in agricultural extension. More importantly, I learned that change begins with us. Before we can influence others, we must grow ourselves with confidence, commitment, and a sense of purpose. This training reinforced that the future of this sector lies in our hands, and meaningful change starts when we take the first step.

Action Plan

I plan to apply the knowledge and insights gained from NYPDP in both academic and professional contexts. I aim to continuously develop as an agricultural extension professional, using tools and approaches learned here. With confidence, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, I hope to contribute meaningfully to strengthening the agricultural sector and supporting farming communities.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey



"MANAGE NYPDP was more than a training, it was a journey of growth, innovation, and self-discovery. Change begins within us."

I plan to apply the knowledge and insights gained from NYPDP in both academic and professional contexts. I aim to continuously develop as an agricultural extension professional, using tools and approaches learned here. With confidence, collaboration, and a commitment to lifelong learning, I hope to contribute meaningfully to strengthening the agricultural sector and supporting farming communities.

Mr. Keithellakpam Chanakya

M.Sc. Agricultural Extension Education

Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication

Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology & Science

Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

e-mail: kchanakyasingh@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>



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA