



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Redefining Extension: My Transformative Journey with NYPDP

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Day 1: Inauguration and Setting the Vision for Agricultural Extension



The inaugural day of the NYPDP marked a significant milestone, setting the tone for the entire program. The atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm and a shared commitment to advancing agricultural extension. Participants expressed excitement and anticipation, recognizing the program as a platform to enhance competencies and contribute meaningfully to the sector.

- **Evolving role of extension professionals:** The discussions highlighted the need for professionals to adapt to changing agricultural landscapes by incorporating new technologies and methodologies to better serve farming communities.
- **Importance of youth engagement:** There was a strong emphasis on involving young professionals to bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to longstanding challenges.
- **Collaborative efforts:** The significance of collaboration between institutions like MANAGE and universities such as CCS HAU was underscored, fostering an integrated approach to agricultural development.

Day 2: Embracing Innovation and Research in Agricultural Extension

This day focused on innovation, research methodologies, and competencies essential for modern extension professionals. Interactive exercises enhanced critical thinking and encouraged collaborative learning.



- **Emerging research traditions & decision modeling:** Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar introduced human-centered models integrating cognitive, emotional, and behavioral aspects, highlighting their potential for impactful extension outcomes.
- **Social science research & knowledge management:** Dr. Krithika Sundaram emphasized strategies for organizing, managing, and disseminating knowledge, enhancing the effectiveness of extension services.
- **Evolving competencies for extension professionals:** Dr. Saravanan Raj stressed aligning skills with emerging job roles and the importance of continuous learning.
- **Entrepreneurial thinking in extension:** Dr. Anupam Anand inspired participants to adopt a startup mindset, encouraging innovation in solving agricultural challenges.

Day 3: Advancing Sustainability, Entrepreneurship, and Gender Equality in Agricultural Extension



This day explored sustainability, entrepreneurship, and gender equity in agricultural extension. Sessions promoted inclusive, innovative, and socially responsible practices.

- Extension for organic farming: Dr. Mahesh Chander emphasized the role of extension in promoting organic agriculture and sustainable practices.
- Entrepreneurship and gender equality: The session highlighted inclusive strategies to foster gender equity and support entrepreneurship across demographics.
- Monitoring & evaluation: Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar introduced tools for evaluating program effectiveness, stressing impact-driven development.
- Interactive demonstrations: Focus group discussions illustrated the importance of stakeholder engagement in designing effective extension strategies.



Day 4: Exploring Research Priorities and Career Opportunities in Agricultural Extension

The fourth day focused on aligning research with contemporary challenges and preparing for diverse career paths.

- Career opportunities in extension education: Dr. Vikram Koundinya and Dr. Parmveer Singh provided practical guidance on cover letter writing and shared global career insights, emphasizing transdisciplinary research.
- Research priorities in agricultural extension: Dr. Saravanan Raj discussed aligning research with innovation needs and emerging challenges.
- Motivating students: Dr. Rati Mukteshwar delivered an inspiring lecture on nurturing student motivation and excellence.
- University museum visit: A walk through the museum offered a rich historical perspective, linking past innovations with future directions in agriculture.

Day 5: Integrating Climate Resilience, Policy Engagement, and Future Competencies

The final day emphasized contemporary challenges, such as climate change and policy engagement, while preparing participants with evolving competencies.



- Extension strategies for climate change adaptation: Mr. Srajesh Gupta's session focused on community-based, sustainable solutions to climate challenges.
- Evolving competencies for agricultural extension: Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman highlighted the need for continual learning to stay effective in a rapidly changing sector.
- Policy engagement: A session emphasized advocacy and evidence-based policymaking to support inclusive development.
- Valedictory session: Dr. Surender Pahuja's closing remarks encouraged participants to carry forward their learnings with confidence, marking the end of a transformative journey.

Training Experience

The five-day training was highly enriching and transformative. Thoughtfully structured, it combined theoretical insights, practical exercises, and dynamic discussions. Each day deepened my understanding through academic rigor and real-world relevance, delivered by passionate and knowledgeable resource persons.



Change in Perspective

Previously, I viewed agricultural extension primarily through the lens of technology transfer. This program reshaped that understanding, revealing extension as a multifaceted discipline requiring interdisciplinary knowledge, empathy, and strategic thinking.

It emphasized inclusivity, entrepreneurial thinking, gender sensitivity, and climate resilience as essential dimensions.

Training Environment

The environment was open, supportive, and intellectually stimulating. Facilitators encouraged active participation, creating a vibrant learning space. Diverse participant backgrounds enriched our discussions, and the strong sense of community fostered effective peer learning and networking.

What I Appreciate

I appreciated the holistic structure of the program that balanced technical content with soft skills and career development. Sessions on M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) tools, entrepreneurship, and policy advocacy were especially relevant. The interaction with domain experts and opportunities for peer learning were invaluable. The program's emphasis on emerging research trends and global opportunities also helped me realign my academic goals.



Networking

Peer interaction was among the most rewarding aspects. Engaging with young professionals from across India provided multiple perspectives on extension challenges and innovations. The connections built during the program have the potential to evolve into meaningful collaborations and a strong support network.

Main Takeaway

The key takeaway is the urgent need for continuous evolution in competencies. Beyond technical knowledge, extension professionals must embrace digital tools, emotional intelligence, policy literacy, and entrepreneurial thinking. This integrated skill set is essential for addressing current and future agricultural challenges.

Action Plan



I aim to:

- Integrate participatory and gender-sensitive approaches in extension research
- Apply modern research methods and M&E tools to enhance program outcomes
- Adopt an entrepreneurial mind-set to identify opportunities for rural innovation
- Engage with policymakers and stakeholders to advocate for evidence-based policies
- Collaborate with peers on interdisciplinary research and stay updated on emerging trends

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey



The MANAGE NYPDP journey has been a catalyst for my professional transformation. It broadened my vision, deepened my competencies, and redefined my approach as an agricultural extension professional. This immersive experience blended knowledge, peer learning, and inspiration, equipping me to meet the future of agriculture with confidence and purpose.

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