



## National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

### Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



#### Learn, Connect, Grow: My Transformative Journey through NYPDP

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**Monika Kholiya,**

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner, Rajasthan during 10-14 Feb, 2025.

 [monika-kholiya](#)

Each day of the NYPDP was filled with valuable insights and learning experiences.

**Day 1:** The program began with ice-breaking activities that encouraged teamwork and helped build connections in a relaxed setting. This was followed by an insightful session by Dr. Saravanan Raj, who spoke about emerging competencies, job opportunities, and research priorities in Agricultural Extension.

**Day 2:** The day started with an informative session by Dr. Manjunath B. L., Senior Scientist at ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, who shared his expertise on livelihood development and the necessary competencies for extension personnel. Dr. Sreeram Vishnu, Assistant Professor at Kerala Agricultural University, introduced us to social network analysis in behavioural research. Later, Dr. Meghajit Sharma from the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT, Bengaluru, provided deep insights into research on gender equality and social inclusion in agriculture. Overall, it was a highly informative day in the areas of livelihood research and network analysis.



**Day 3:** Dr. Vikram Koundinya and Ms. Sravani Reddy discussed various career pathways and opportunities in extension education abroad. This was followed by Dr. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee, Policy Engagement Specialist at IWMI, who shared her experiences in policymaking, relevant courses, as well as fellowships and internship opportunities.





**Day 4:** The day began with an engaging session on bibliometric analysis by Dr. S. Rahalya, MANAGE Fellow, who also explained systematic literature reviews and research publication strategies. Dr. P.V.K. Shasidhar, Professor at the School of Extension and Development Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi, then delivered an in-depth session on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for extension projects. He also provided a live demonstration of how to conduct focus group discussions, an essential competency in agricultural extension research.

**Day 5:** Dr. Mahesh Chander, Principal Scientist at IVRI, delivered a powerful session on entrepreneurship, gender equality in agricultural extension, and the importance of organic farming. He was followed by Mr. Srajesh Gupta, Manager of Climate Change Research at AKRSP, Gujarat, who discussed climate change, market opportunities, and policy advocacy in agricultural extension.

## Training Experience

The five-day training was immersive and enriching, packed with engaging sessions, interactive discussions, and collaborative activities. It was both challenging and rewarding, pushing me out of my comfort zone while providing ample opportunities for growth and learning.



Though I never held a negative perspective on agricultural extension, this training broadened my vision significantly. I learned about new job opportunities, cutting-edge approaches, and emerging research areas that have expanded my understanding of the field.

### Training Environment

The environment was very supportive, encouraging open dialogue and active participation. Both facilitators and fellow participants contributed to a positive and collaborative atmosphere. I sincerely thank MANAGE and RAJUVAS faculty members for their warm and helpful support throughout the program.



### Main Takeaway

My most significant takeaway was the importance of adaptability and lifelong learning in agricultural extension. To stay relevant and effective, one must remain updated with emerging trends, tools, and technologies that drive growth and development in the sector.





Peer interactions offered fresh perspectives on different approaches and challenges in agricultural extension. Networking with professionals who share similar goals and interests opened doors to potential collaborations and created a supportive network.



### My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

*'Learn, connect, grow- this sums up my NYPDP journey'*

It was a transformative experience that equipped me with cutting-edge knowledge, sparked new ideas, and connected me with a vibrant community of passionate young professionals in agricultural extension.

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