



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



"From Learning to Inner Growth: A Heartfelt Reflection"

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE,
Hyderabad during March 24-28, 2025.

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Day 1: Exploring the Global Scope and Career Opportunities in Agricultural Extension

The training began with an insightful introduction to the field of Agricultural Extension. Dr. Saravanan Raj candidly shared the challenges he faced in the early stages of his career, offering valuable lessons in resilience and perseverance. He emphasized the global relevance of Agricultural Extension and highlighted the wide range of career opportunities within the field.

A significant part of the session focused on building core competencies essential for success. The day set a positive tone for the training, fostering a deeper appreciation for the field's impact on agricultural development. We also engaged in a group activity that allowed participants from different parts of India to get acquainted, laying the foundation for peer learning and collaboration.



Day 2: Exploring Research Priorities and Policy Engagement in Agricultural Extension

Dr. Saravanan Raj opened the day with a discussion on evolving research priorities in Agricultural Extension, emphasizing its interdisciplinary nature and integration with cross-cutting themes like gender, value chain development, and ICTs.

Following this, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman presented “The Road Not Taken: Opportunities Extension Graduates Often Ignore”, encouraging us to pursue less explored but high-impact roles. He introduced us to GFRAS (Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services) and elaborated on the capacities needed in the extension profession. In the afternoon, Dr. Sulaiman also led a session on policy engagement, covering policy analysis, evidence-based advocacy, and how to craft impactful policy briefs.

The evening session by Dr. Sreeram Vishnu Sir introduced Social Network Analysis (SNA). He discussed key theories such as the Strength of Weak Ties, Structural Holes, and Small World Networks, and provided hands-on exposure to tools like NetDraw and Gephi, useful for visualizing and analyzing social data.

Day 3: Field Exposure and Research Methodology

The day began with a field visit to Access Livelihoods Consulting, an organization working to transform rural livelihoods through innovative models. In the afternoon, Dr. P. Sethuraman delivered a standout session on research methodology. He delved into advanced approaches to measurement and scaling in social science research, making the session both intellectually engaging and practically useful. The day concluded with a presentation by Mr. M. Kumar from CDAC, who spoke about the role of Information Technology in Agriculture, including AI, blockchain, cloud computing, and big data tools revolutionizing modern extension.



Day 4: Exploring Global study opportunities and Social Dynamics

The day began with sessions on global education and career pathways. Speakers including Dr. Vikram Koundinya, Ms. Sravani Reddy, Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi, and Dr. Parmveer Singh offered valuable insights on graduate programs, fellowships, and career growth abroad.

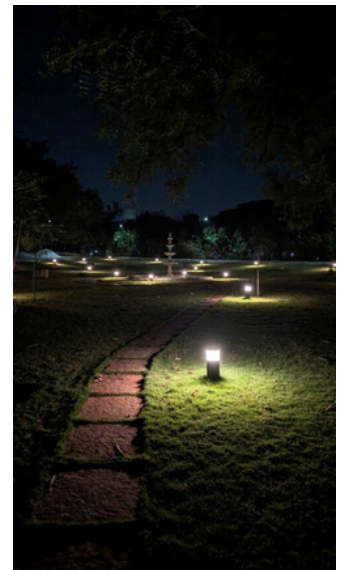
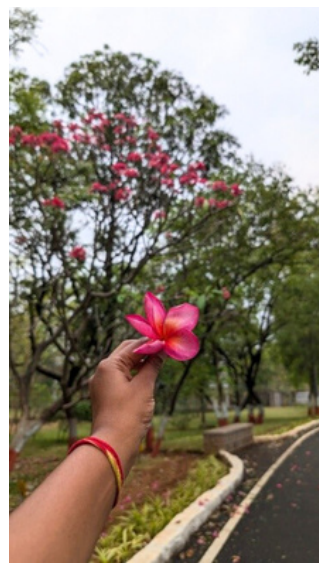
In the afternoon, Dr. Mahesh Chander delivered a powerful session on gender equality in agricultural extension, emphasizing inclusivity as a cornerstone of effective development. This was followed by a captivating presentation by Dr. Suchiradipta, which further enriched our understanding of social dimensions in policy and extension.



Day 5: Research Tools and Evaluation Frameworks

The final day began with an informative session by Dr. Raahalya on contemporary research trends in Agricultural Extension, including techniques like truncation, metadata analysis, and bibliometric methods.

Later, Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar conducted an insightful session on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). He explained M&E frameworks, their practical application in extension programs, and led a live Focus Group Discussion (FGD) exercise that gave us hands-on experience in qualitative research. We concluded the day with outdoor group reflections, which offered a refreshing and dynamic setting to consolidate our learnings and share key takeaways.



Training Environment



From the moment I arrived, the serene and green campus created a calming atmosphere perfect for introspection and immersive learning. The peaceful environment supported clarity of thought and deep focus, which made the sessions all the more impactful. The accommodation and hospitality were excellent, ensuring our comfort and enabling us to be fully engaged throughout the program.

What I Appreciate



This training was a profoundly enriching experience. The sessions were thoughtfully structured, with a balance of theory and practical application. The facilitators were not only experts in their fields but also deeply committed to our growth. The environment was supportive, encouraging active participation and critical thinking.

Main Takeaway

The biggest lesson I take forward is the importance of adaptability and continuous learning in Agricultural Extension. The program redefined my understanding of the field, not just as a system of technology transfer, but as a people-centered, interdisciplinary, and innovation-driven domain.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

This journey has been nothing short of transformative. It has ignited a renewed passion in me and broadened my vision for the future. I leave this program not just with knowledge, but with inspiration, friendships, and a strengthened sense of purpose.



Dear MANAGE CAEIRA-NYPDP, Thank You.
You have helped shape the professional I aspire to become.

Ms. Vismaya K C

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