



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



From Limited Vision to Limitless Horizons: My Reflective Journey at NYPDP 2025

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The National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP) serves as a platform for nurturing the next generation of extension professionals by broadening their perspectives and equipping them for emerging global challenges. With its blend of thought-provoking sessions, interactive activities, and real-world exposure, the programme provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to excel in diverse career pathways. It not only sharpens professional competencies but also inspires a spirit of innovation, leadership, and inclusivity essential for driving agricultural extension forward at both national and international levels.

Stepping In with Curiosity, Walking Out with Clarity

When I stepped into the National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP) at Veterinary College, Bengaluru - jointly organised by MANAGE, Hyderabad and KVAFSU, Bidar - I carried with me a conditioned mindset. My thoughts about agricultural extension and career opportunities were narrow, almost boxed in. Over five days, that mindset was broken open, and I walked out with a broader vision, renewed confidence, and countless inspirations.

“Some journeys begin with questions...this one ended with answers and new dreams.”

A Beginning of Ideas and Reflections

Day 1 : The programme opened under the inspiring presence of Prof. K. C. Veeranna, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, and Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director, MANAGE, whose words reminded us that learning is both a privilege and a responsibility. The group activity on “Challenges and Opportunities in Agricultural Extension” was a turning point for me. At first, I was hesitant to speak, but the exercise of brainstorming, preparing charts, and presenting pushed me out of my shell. By the end of the day, I realized that extension thrives on dialogue, courage, and collaboration.



“The first step to learning is daring to speak—and the first day gave me that courage.”

Innovation, Competencies, and Creativity at Play



Day 2 : Dr. Saravanan Raj led us through compelling sessions on Research Priorities in Extension, Next Generation Extension Methods, and Agri-Innovation through Startups. His insights painted extension not as routine service delivery but as an ecosystem of innovation and opportunity. The Extension Market Place activity was an eye-opener—transforming me into an innovator pitching my ideas as if to real investors.

Later, Dr. Prakash Kumar Rathod enlightened us on Facilitation for Development, while Dr. Ambarish (Shrushti Media, Bangalore) blended technology with creativity in his session on Digital Competencies. Creating short videos in groups was not just fun—it was proof that extension professionals must be storytellers too.

“Competencies are the tools, innovation is the spark, and together they craft excellence.”

Energy, Entrepreneurship, and Exposure

Day 3 : The day began with an unforgettable session by Dr. Mahesh Chander, Principal Scientist, IVRI. His talk on Entrepreneurship, Gender Equality, and Organic Farming was not just informative—it was alive with his contagious energy and vibrant personality. He reminded me that extension is not a profession of monotony but one of passion and possibilities.

In the afternoon, we visited the ICAR–NIVEDI Campus and the NaaViC–RKVY RAFTAAR Incubation Center. Here, Dr. Sathish B. Shivachandra, PI & CEO, NaaViC, gave a glimpse into how startups and innovations are nurtured with training, incubation, and funding. Listening to Mr. Vinay S. Shetty, CEO of Ayisra TechSolutions, narrate his entrepreneurial journey was inspiring—it reminded me that ideas, when pursued with persistence, can become enterprises. The day closed with an address by Dr. B. R. Gulati, Director, ICAR–NIVEDI, who emphasized the role of institutions in enabling young professionals to succeed.

“Extension is not only about knowledge—it is about creating opportunities and nurturing visionaries.”



Broadening Horizons and Building Inclusivity

Day 4 : This day carried a special essence as we connected virtually with Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi (Ph.D. Scholar, Texas A&M University, USA) and Mr. Samrat Sikdar (Ph.D. Scholar, Mississippi State University, USA). Their session on Graduate Study and Career Opportunities in Extension Education and Evaluation in the USA was a revelation. As I had little awareness of such pathways before - but they sensitized me, encouraged me, and made me believe in possibilities beyond borders.



“Knowledge has no borders... global perspectives turned our limitations into possibilities.”

The day continued with Dr. S. Raahalya, MANAGE Fellow, who brilliantly walked us through Methodological Landscapes and Digital Features. Dr. V. Jagadeeswary, Professor, KVAFSU brought gender issues to the forefront with her session on Gender Mainstreaming, while Dr. L. Manjunatha, Professor & Head, KVAFSU, opened our eyes to the Policy Advocacy Landscape. Finally, Dr. Meghajit Sharma, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, guided us through the subtleties of Research on Gender in Agriculture.

Tying it all together with evaluation and reflection

Day 5: The final day began with Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar, Professor, IGNOU, New Delhi, who delivered a powerful session on Monitoring and Evaluation. His live demonstration of a Focus Group Discussion turned theory into practice and involved each of us directly. It was the perfect way to emphasize that extension is not just about action but also about measuring impact.



The programme concluded with insights from Dr. R. Nagaraja, Dean I/c, Veterinary College, Bengaluru, and once again from Dr. Saravanan Raj, whose words provided closure while also urging us to look forward.

“The final day tied knowledge with practice, teaching us to measure not only outcomes but also transformation.”

Holistic Reflections of my Five-day journey



My five-day training experience at NYPDP was nothing short of transformative. Each day unfolded like a new chapter, carefully crafted with sessions that challenged my thinking, expanded my horizons, and strengthened my confidence. The balance of expert lectures, interactive group activities, exposure visits, and virtual interactions created a holistic learning environment that was both intellectually stimulating and personally fulfilling.

What made the experience truly remarkable was the seamless blend of academic rigor with creativity, innovation, and practical relevance. Beyond the sessions, the atmosphere of collaboration and diversity gave me space to express myself, to learn from peers across different disciplines, and to grow not only as a professional but also as an individual.

“Looking back, these five days were more than a training programme — they were a journey of rediscovery, inspiring confidence and leadership.”



One of the most rewarding aspects of this programme was the chance to connect with 42 participants from six states across India. Coming from a veterinary extension background, I found it deeply enriching to interact with peers from agricultural and fisheries extension, each bringing unique experiences and perspectives. The diversity of languages and cultures made every interaction vibrant, and what began with strangers soon turned into a close circle of learners. This exposure gave me fresh insights into interdisciplinary approaches and taught me the true value of inclusivity, collaboration, and lasting friendships built on trust and respect.

“Truly, the peer learning and companionship during these five days were as valuable as the formal sessions themselves.”

The Campus and Hospitality

The Veterinary College, Bengaluru provided the perfect setting—serene, stimulating, and academically vibrant. The calmness of the campus created space for reflection, while its scholarly atmosphere constantly reminded me of the purpose of being here.

Equally memorable was the hospitality extended throughout the programme. The stay was arranged with care, ensuring comfort and ease so that I could focus entirely on learning. The atmosphere blended professionalism with warmth, making the training feel less like a formal programme and more like a home for young professionals.

Adding to this was the well-arranged and delicious food, which kept me energized and cheerful each day. Small details like these turned the programme into a truly holistic experience—where learning, comfort, and well-being were all taken care of.



Together, the campus, hospitality, and food created an environment that was not only conducive to learning but also left me with fond memories that will remain long after the training.

“A serene campus, warm hospitality, and good food—learning felt effortless in such comfort.”

A Renewed Perspective on Agricultural Extension

Before this programme, I saw agricultural extension mainly as transferring knowledge from experts to farmers. Now, I understand it as a multidimensional field that combines research, policy, entrepreneurship, gender inclusion, and digital skills. Extension is not just about sharing information—it’s about fostering leadership, innovation, inclusivity, and empowered communities.



” This training showed me that being an extension professional requires vision, adaptability, and a global outlook grounded in local realities.”

Defining Takeaways - Carrying the Torch Forward

The greatest gift this programme has given me is a shift in mindset. I realized that growth begins where comfort ends, and that the true professional is one who refuses to be confined by narrow boundaries. The sessions, activities, and interactions constantly reminded me that excellence lies in cultivating a spirit of openness, embracing new competencies, and drawing inspiration from every source of knowledge around us.

In essence, my significant takeaway is that I must constantly learn, refine, and reimagine myself—not in isolation, but in connection with global opportunities, interdisciplinary approaches, and the spirit of service to farming communities. It is this broadened vision, renewed confidence, and strengthened purpose that I carry forward from NYPDP 2025.

“Above all, I carry with me the conviction that passion fuels purpose, and energy transforms learning into leadership.”

Action Plan

I will specialize in my area of interest, continuously learn, and stay updated on emerging trends. I will explore non-traditional opportunities, adopt a broader outlook, and cultivate a global perspective.



"I aim to broaden my horizons and make meaningful contributions in agricultural extension by equipping myself with the necessary competencies and nurturing my passion,

Gratitude and Closing Reflections

I extend heartfelt gratitude to MANAGE, Hyderabad and KVAFSU, Bidar for conceptualizing and conducting this transformative programme and to Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director, MANAGE, Hyderabad whose vision and guidance shaped much of my learning throughout my journey in the NYDPDP. My sincere thanks also go to each resource person whose insights will remain etched in my professional journey.

As I reflect on these five days, one thought echoes within me:

"Five days gave knowledge, countless moments gave confidence, and shared experiences gave a lifetime of inspiration, growth, and lasting memories."



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