



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



“Navigating Streams to Oceans: Reflecting on My NYPDP Voyage in Expanding Horizons of Extension”

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, (KVAFSU) BIDAR, Karnataka September 8-12, 2025

 **Aishwarya P N**

Key Learnings

The training broadened my horizons in agricultural extension. As a fisheries extensionist, I gain exposure to emerging competencies, global opportunities, and innovative approaches. The emerging competencies, such as facilitation skills, digital competencies, and innovation management were highlighted as indispensable for modern extension professionals.

I learned how next-generation competencies like visioning, research priorities, and democratization of innovations will shape the future extension landscape by 2050. Exposure visits to incubation centres, particularly NAAVIC, under RKVY-RAFTAAR, underscored the vital role of entrepreneurship, sustainability models, and startup ecosystems in agricultural transformation. The critical sessions on gender mainstreaming reaffirmed the central role of inclusivity in shaping extension systems and research priorities. The research and methodology tools, such as Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) frameworks and structured Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), strengthened methodological competence for research and field engagement.

Training Experience

The programme blended conceptual, experiential, and practical learning seamlessly. Participatory activities like the World Café, Extension Marketplace, and Commitment Cards stimulated critical thinking and creativity. Field exposure to incubation centres provided real-world insights into startup culture and its synergy with agricultural extension. Alumni narratives and sessions with international scholars offered inspiration and broadened the global outlook of the participants.



"The best extension experience comes when learning shifts from passive listening to active doing, reflecting, and applying"

Training Environment

The environment was dynamic, inclusive, and highly interactive. Every resource person encouraged active participation, making sessions engaging rather than one-directional. The diversity of participants created a rich learning ecosystem where experiences, perspectives, and challenges could be shared openly. The supportive environment also nurtured peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.

"An enabling environment in extension is one where every participant feels valued, heard, and inspired to contribute"

Networking

The NYPDP created significant opportunities for network building:

- Informal interactions such as "Meet Your Tribe" helped foster rapport among participants.
- Peer discussions led to potential research collaborations and joint initiatives.
- Engagement with incubation managers, scholars, and experts opened avenues for professional development, mentorship, and collaborative projects.
- The sense of community established during the training is expected to sustain beyond the programme.



"Networking in extension is more than exchanging contacts; it is about weaving bonds of trust and collective learning that last beyond programmes"

What I Appreciate

The programme's strength lay in its holistic approach:

- Integration of theory with practice through exposure visits.
- Opportunities to interact with experts, scholars abroad, and successful alumni.
- The emphasis on gender equality and inclusivity added social depth to technical discussions.
- The innovative pedagogy ensured that every session was participatory, reflective, and future-oriented.

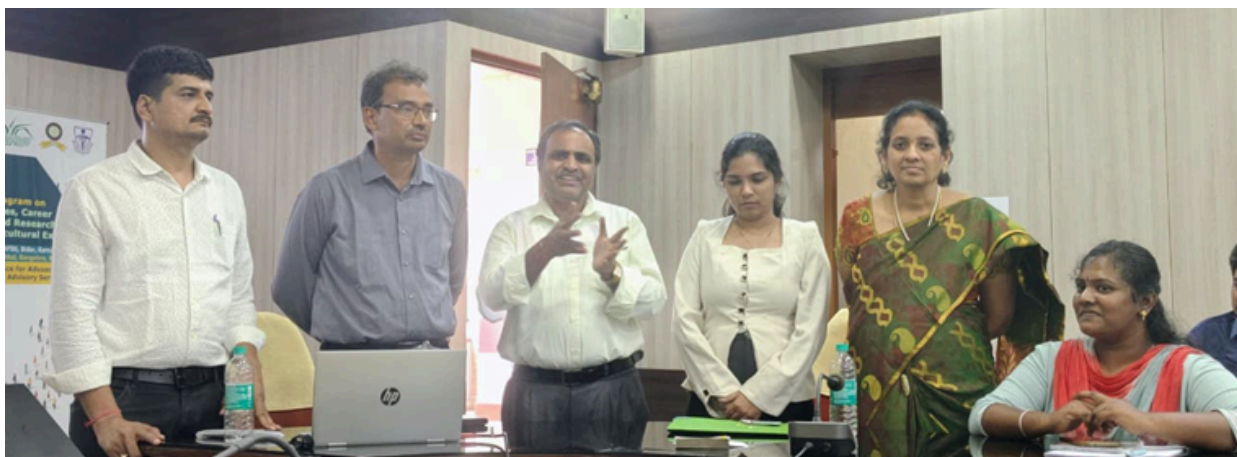
"I value extension not for the technologies it delivers, but for the confidence it builds in people to solve their own problems"



Main Takeaway

The programme reaffirmed that agricultural extension professionals of the future must be multi-dimensional, not only knowledge disseminators but also facilitators, innovators, policy advocates, gender champions, monitoring and evaluation experts and digital practitioners. It underscored the necessity of continuous learning, adaptability, and inclusivity to meet the dynamic demands of the agricultural sector and its stakeholders.

"The essence of extension is to bridge the distance between knowledge and practice, and between aspiration and achievement"



Action Plan

Based on the training, I commit to the following actionable steps:

1. **Skill Development:** Strengthen my facilitation, digital extension, and innovation management capabilities.
2. **Research Innovation:** Develop and pitch a concept note on fisheries/extension innovation for incubation platforms.
3. **Gender Responsiveness:** Incorporate gender perspectives into my Ph.D. research and outreach activities.
4. **Policy Engagement:** Contribute to at least one policy brief or advocacy initiative aligned with fisheries extension.
5. **Methodological Application:** Apply FGD techniques and M&E frameworks in my field research for evidence-based outcomes.
6. **Networking Continuity:** Maintain connections with peers and mentors to build collaborative projects.
7. **Career Roadmap:** Draft a structured personal career plan integrating academia, entrepreneurship, and policy advocacy.



"Extension education is not just about teaching; it is about creating pathways where people learn, share, and grow together."



"This MANAGE-NYPDP training was not just about learning new skills, but about rediscovering my purpose as an extension professional to innovate, to include, and to inspire change."

As a student of fisheries extension education, participating in the NYPDP has been a profoundly enriching experience. The NYPDP has been a turning point in my journey. It showed me that extension is not just a subject, but a way of empowering lives. The programme deepened my understanding of the evolving role of extension professionals and reaffirmed my commitment to bridging research with community needs. It strengthened my confidence to pursue innovation, inclusivity, and evidence-based practices in my academic and professional journey. The interactions, exposures, and reflections have shaped my perspective towards a more holistic approach to extension. I look forward to carrying these learnings forward in my career and contributing meaningfully to the field.

Ms. Aishwarya P.N

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