



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



"Uncharted Paths: My Five-Day Journey"

Bhavana K S

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

 [Bhavana K S](#)

Key Learnings

The five-day NYPDP training was truly an amazing experience that transformed my perception of agricultural extension education. Until now, I looked at extension as just one part of agriculture, but through this programme, I discovered it is a vast field filled with opportunities waiting to be explored.

I also realized that opportunities alone are not enough—what truly matters is building the right skills to make the most of them. This training gave me a fresh perspective, helping me see extension not only as a subject but also as a pathway to personal and professional growth.

"Gaining Insights in Agricultural Extension"

Day 1 : The session focused on professional development in agricultural extension. We engaged in a group activity on 'Challenges and Opportunities in Agricultural Extension,' where we brainstormed and presented our ideas. It was a valuable experience to apply what we had learned, interact with peers, and appreciate the importance of continuous learning for growth in this field



"Learning, Innovation, and Digital Competencies"



Day 2 : I gained valuable insights into modern agricultural extension, including research priorities, next-generation methods, and the role of agri-innovation through startups. The hands-on 'Extension Market Place' activity helped me develop practical skills in pitching innovative ideas and fostering creativity. I also learned about key competencies and career opportunities in facilitation, and explored digital skills, such as creating short videos, highlighting the importance of technology in effective extension work.

“Entrepreneurship and Startup Support in Agriculture”

Day 3 : Entrepreneurship plays a critical role in strengthening agricultural extension, with an emphasis on gender equality and organic farming in modern agricultural practices. The visit to the ICAR-NIVEDI Campus provided valuable insights into how incubation centers support agri-startups by linking innovators to government grants, funding platforms, and offering various training and mentorship services.



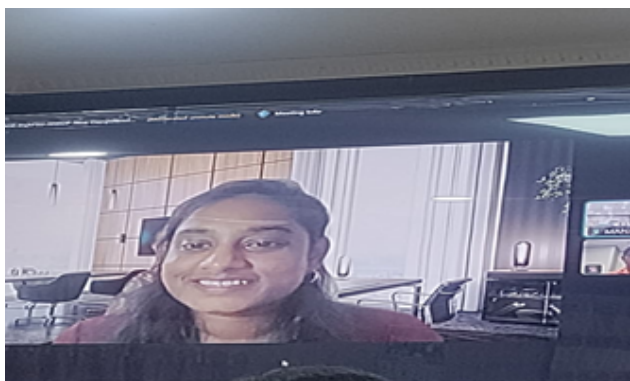
Additionally, hearing firsthand experiences from successful entrepreneurs offered practical insights into the startup journey, inspiring participants and demonstrating the challenges and opportunities involved in agricultural entrepreneurship.

“ Global Careers, Modern Research, and Collaborative Learning in Agriculture”

Day 4 : sessions provided valuable insights into global career opportunities, with a virtual meeting featuring PhD scholars from the USA that highlighted graduate studies and career prospects in extension education and evaluation, encouraging participants to view their careers from a broader, international perspective.

They also emphasized modern research methods, showcasing the transition from traditional approaches to next-generation techniques and the use of digital tools for extension professionals.

Key discussions on gender and policy in agriculture highlighted the importance of gender mainstreaming, research on gender issues, and the role of policy advocacy for young professionals.



Additionally, collaborative learning was reinforced through group activities, where participants brainstormed and developed innovative ideas, underscoring the value of teamwork and shared problem-solving.

“Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reflective Learning”

Day 5 : The final day of the program focused on monitoring and evaluation, as well as overall reflection. The "Monitoring and Evaluation" session combined theoretical insights with a practical demonstration of a Focus Group Discussion (FGD), actively engaging participants and making the learning highly experiential.

The program concluded with a reflective session, allowing participants to consolidate the knowledge and skills gained over five days. Overall, the program provided a transformative learning and networking experience, emphasizing the value of interaction with peers from different states and guidance from eminent resource persons.

Change in Perspective

The NYPDP training transformed my understanding of agricultural extension, shifting my view from seeing it as just a small part of agriculture to recognizing it as a vast field full of opportunities. It made me realize that success depends not only on identifying opportunities but also on developing the right skills to leverage them effectively.

The program broadened my outlook on career possibilities, ranging from entrepreneurship and startups to global career opportunities, modern research methods, and policy advocacy.



Networking

Interacting with peers from different states and learning from experts also highlighted the importance of collaboration, networking, and continuous learning, giving me a more holistic and informed perspective on professional growth in agricultural extension.



Training Environment

The training offered a warm and motivating atmosphere. Carefully designed group exercises and classroom interactions encouraged the free exchange of ideas and helped participants build professional networks.



This open and engaging environment, along with meaningful interactions with fellow participants, nurtured a strong sense of community and intellectual engagement throughout the program.

Main Takeaways

The five-day NYPDP training broadened my understanding of agricultural extension as a vast field full of opportunities where developing the right skills is essential.

Engaging group activities and discussions emphasized the importance of applying knowledge and continuous learning, while exposure to modern research methods, agri-innovation, and digital tools highlighted creativity and practical problem-solving.

Sessions on entrepreneurship demonstrated the role of innovation, gender equality, and sustainable practices in strengthening extension, and global interactions expanded perspectives on career opportunities, research, and policy advocacy.

Hands-on evaluation exercises and reflective sessions further reinforced learning, collaboration, and professional networking, making the program a highly enriching and transformative experience.



Action Plan

In hindsight, this program proved to be a timely and transformative experience in my learning journey. It offered a deepened understanding and fresh perspective that will continue to shape my approach to agricultural extension.

The training renewed my enthusiasm for the field, equipping me with practical insights, skills, and a clearer vision to advance confidently in my professional growth.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

In the future, I hope MANAGE hosts more programs of this nature, as they do more than educate—they inspire transformation. Such initiatives offer excellent opportunities for connecting with experts, gaining insights from seasoned scientists, understanding advanced research techniques, and enhancing the skills required for meaningful contributions in research and extension.

“The five-day NYPDP proved to be an enlightening experience, deepening my understanding of agricultural extension as a dynamic, multifaceted, and opportunity-rich field. I truly value the practical knowledge, fresh perspectives, and career insights gained throughout this transformative journey.”



Ms. Bhavana K S

M.Sc. (Agri.) Agricultural Extension Education
Department of Agricultural Extension Education
Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural
Sciences, Shivamogga, Karnataka
e-mail: bks97556@gmail.com

MANAGE - Center for Agricultural Extension Innovations, Reforms and Agripreneurship (MANAGE- CAEIRA)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA
<https://www.manage.gov.in/caeira/caeira.asp>



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