



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



MANAGE NYPDP: Networking among the young generation extension professionals."

Dr. Ambili S

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

 **Ambili S**

The National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) on “New Competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension”, was organized by MANAGE and Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar. It was a milestone in my personal and professional life.

Key Learnings

Day 1 : It was a rollercoaster day. My concepts about extension changed in the most valuable sessions taken by Dr. Saravanan Raj Sir (Director, MANAGE). Through his session he made us think globally about extension, and the rest is history.



Through the session: "New competencies and job opportunities for agricultural extension", we learned the major career opportunities for extension professionals in the various national and international organizations. He also urged us to specialize in one area and to gain the skill sets required for that area.

Day 2 : The major research priorities in agricultural extension were discussed by Dr. Saravanan Raj Sir. It gave a new outlook to the future of agriculture and allied sectors. The interactions with the other students through the activity sessions in the program were also enriching.

For example, I learned about the ‘Rave programs,’ which was a new and exciting idea for me. The session by Dr. Ambarish on digital competencies for extension professionals gave a detailed practical information on the opportunities and hurdles in the media sector for extension.

Day 3 : For me it was the most interesting day in the program. The session conducted by Dr. Mahesh Chander Sir, Principal Scientist of IVRI, on gender equality and organic farming was inspiring. On the first day Saravanan Raj Sir talked about specialization in a particular area. Dr. Mahesh Chander Sir was one of the best examples we could have.

Sir had started his research in the area of organic farming in 1996, well before the area was recognised by the National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) in 2004. The program gave an opportunity for direct interactions with the invaluable resource persons.

In the afternoon session we visited the ICAR-NIVEDI's NaaViC Agribusiness Incubation Centre. It gave a fresh outlook on the entrepreneurial opportunities and the support provided by the government institutions.



Day 4 : The online session on career opportunities in extension education in the United States by Ms. Lakshmi Prasanna Kandi was an information rich, interactive session. Session by Dr. S. Rahalya gave the most useful practical knowledge regarding NextGen research tools and methods. The session by Dr. Jagatheeshwari and Dr. Manjunatha also enhanced the curiosity about the gender aspects and policy aspects of agriculture extension, respectively.

Day 5 : The session conducted by Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar, Professor of School of Extension and Development Studies, IGNOU, Delhi instilled the knowledge of "Monitoring and Evaluation" in Extension. And I also could participate as one of the panel members in this Focus group discussion activity, which was an ultimate practical guide for the future.

Training Experience

It was truly an eye-opening experience that introduced us to a wealth of national and international resources in a short span of time. The program created opportunities for us to grow into better versions of ourselves.



Networking

It was an immense opportunity to connect with extension students from various domains- agriculture, fisheries, veterinary, home science etc. It gave a whole view on the extension environment. We have connected on LinkedIn and created WhatsApp groups for keeping in touch and mutual growth.

Change in Perspective

The program helped me to broaden my perspective about career opportunities of extension. And it gave a chance to enhance knowledge regarding various domains of extension.

Training Environment

The environment of the training program was most convenient for the learning process. The conference room, hostel facilities and surroundings of the Karnataka Veterinary College provided a better environment for networking. I could find many treasured friendships from this training.



My roommates (room no. 14) Aiswarya (Fisheries Extension, Tamil Nadu) and Keerti (Home Science Extension, Rajasthan) were so welcoming and filled the training days with fun.

There was an opportunity to be friends with many participants like Sunnyrudh Singh, Sanjay, Hadiya, Gokilapriya, Sravani, Lephansha and so many others. Though different in domains of extension, state, language or universities, we found a common path which was only possible because of this training. I am thankful for this opportunity.

What I Appreciated

The carefully organised sessions, the selection of resource persons by MANAGE, the networking opportunities, the food and facilities arranged by Karnataka Veterinary University and the coordination/facilitation of the program by Dr. Prakashkumar Rathod, Dr. Jagatheeshwari and Dr. Rahalya were the most appreciable factors of this program.

Main Takeaway

“Specialize in one area of extension, Have better network”

Action Plan

I plan to apply the knowledge and skills gained through this program in my future endeavours.

I planned to specialize in the field of ICT management since my interests and my PG thesis is on this topic. I have joined Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Media course offered by IGNOU. And I started learning SPSS. Through the LinkedIn networks I got into these training, I will expand my network among extension professionals.





"It was one of the best experience in life. It expanded the boundaries of mind through most captivating sessions and enhanced the networking among the young generation extension professionals"

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