



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



GOKILAPRIYA K

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

 **Gokilapriya Karmegam**

Key Learnings

Participating in the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) at Veterinary College, Bengaluru, was an eye-opener for me. The week was meticulously designed to steer us toward becoming future-ready extension professionals, combining expert-led sessions, lively group activities, and hands on demonstrations.

Organized by KVAFSU, Bidar and MANAGE, Hyderabad, the training aimed to build our technical skills, ignite our professional aspirations, and encourage creative thinking.

Our objectives were clear

To master new competencies, explore diverse career paths, and learn how innovation, research, and inclusivity are shaping the future of agricultural extension.

Right from the welcoming session, there was a sense of anticipation among all participants, setting the tone for a collaborative atmosphere and a commitment to collective growth.

Day 1 : Shaping Mindsets and Exploring Possibilities

Day 1 : The first day was truly transformative. The inaugural address was followed by an inspiring presentation from Dr. Saravanan Raj. His words on "emerging opportunities and competencies" struck a chord with me, especially the need to keep evolving in our field.

We plunged into group activities, where everyone voiced the unique challenges and opportunities we see in extension work. These interactions weren't just theoretical - they felt personal and urgent. I left the day reflecting on how important it is for extension professionals to be adaptable, resilient, and always curious. The environment was charged with enthusiasm; every discussion sparked new ideas, and everyone's willingness to share made it a day full of learning, laughter, and genuine connections.



Day 2 : From Ideas to Innovation

Day two began with a deep dive into research priorities in agricultural extension. Dr. Saravanan asked us to imagine and pitch futuristic ideas. Suddenly, innovation didn't feel distant; it felt possible.

The afternoon sessions, led by Dr. Praskashkumar Rathode and Dr. Ambarish, made us realize just how essential facilitation and digital competencies are for today's extension professionals.

These weren't just lectures - they included hands-on activities and debates. By the end of day two, I was feeling more confident about embracing technology and facilitating change in real communities.

Day 3 : Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Empowerment: Sparkling New Pathways in Extension



Day three was a whirlwind of entrepreneurial energy. Dr. Mahesh Chander's session on organic agriculture and gender equality made me rethink how inclusivity can drive real change. Visiting the agri-business incubation centre was inspiring - I met passionate agripreneurs whose creativity was contagious.

Expert interactions exposed us to the world of innovation and agricultural start ups, reminding me of the limitless possibilities when knowledge meets purpose.

Day three convinced me that extension is not just about solving problems but about creating new opportunities for farmers and communities

Day 4: Broadening Horizons: Inclusive Careers, Policy, and Global Perspectives

On day four, the focus shifted to careers, policy, and gender equity. Hearing from scholars who had studied abroad was motivating they widened my horizons and made international exposure seem achievable. Dr. S. Rahalya's primer on digital innovations and evolving methodologies, and Dr. Manjunatha's policy advocacy insights, gave me a sense of direction for my future path.

Sessions on gender mainstreaming led by Dr. V. Jagadeeswary and Dr. Meghajit Sharma were both thoughtful and practical, emphasizing why inclusivity must be at the heart of everything we do in extension.

The lab visits and informal networking - sharing ideas over tea and working together in focus groups - made the training environment vibrant and supportive.



Day 5 : Building connections and looking forward



The last day was all about reflection and application. Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar's demonstration on monitoring and evaluation made theory actionable, highlighting the importance of focus group discussions and practical research.

The wrap-up session brought us back to the core questions: What did we learn, and how will we use it? Sharing farewells felt both proud and bittersweet - this was more than just a training, it was the beginning of lifelong friendships and collaborations

My Takeaways

This training was a catalyst for personal and professional growth. I learned that excellence in extension comes from continuous learning, flexible thinking, and valuing diversity. The energy of the organizers, resource persons, and participants was infectious, creating an environment where everyone felt seen, heard, and inspired.

My main takeaway is clear: Agricultural extension is about empowering communities, not just transferring knowledge. I am motivated to build digital skills, champion gender equity, and pursue meaningful research that addresses real-world problems.

Action Plan

- Using storytelling and behavioral communication in fieldwork.
- Actively networking with mentors and peers for learning and support.
- Seeking extra training in digital tools and research methodologies.
- Promoting inclusive practices and policies wherever I work.
- Setting clear milestones for my professional journey – with regular reflection and feedback loops.

I can honestly say this NYPDP experience has shaped my vision for the future. I am eager to apply every lesson learned, make a difference, and help cultivate a more future-ready, inclusive agricultural sector. Thank you to all the resource persons, organizers, and fellow participants for making these five days not just memorable, but transformative.



***"Hands joined in learning, hearts allied, Innovation and hope unified.
The young professionals rise and stand, Builders of a greener land."***



This poem perfectly expresses the spirit of my journey in the National Young Professionals Development Programme. Throughout the training, I not only gained valuable knowledge but also formed meaningful connections with fellow participants who share the same dedication.

As a young professional, I now feel empowered to become an agent of positive change - embracing innovation, promoting inclusivity, and working passionately to build a sustainable, greener future for agriculture and rural communities. This experience has been more than just learning; it has been an inspiration and a call to action to lead, serve, and grow with commitment and heart.

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