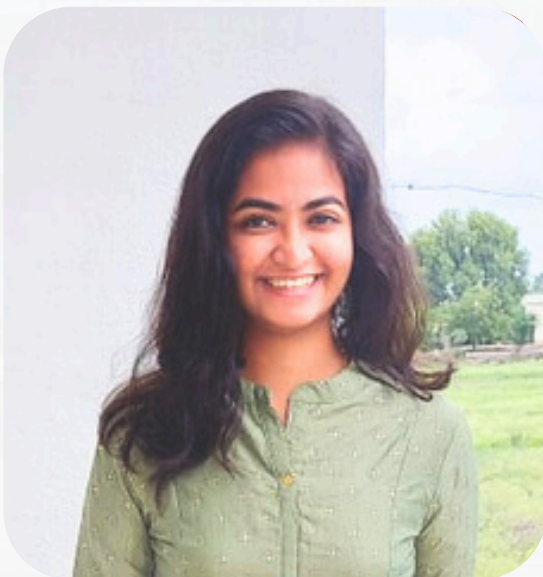




National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



NYPDP: A Pathway Forward

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



[Grace Paul](#)

Key Learnings

When I came to Hebbal, Bengaluru for the NYPDP training, I had two things on my mind: gaining ideas from the training and exploring the city. I'm really glad to say I was able to do both, and it has been an incredible experience.



Day 1 : The first day was all about introductions, setting the stage for everything that followed. The lecture by Dr. Saravanan Raj on new competencies and job opportunities for Agricultural Extension made me realise that extension doesn't remain in one corner but is a subject which involves everything. I was impressed by how the training redefined my understanding of extension, showing me that it is a global agenda that goes far beyond agriculture. The lectures and interactions with my peers were incredibly valuable. Networking with alumni made me look out the window and think globally.





Day 2 : This was the day the real work began, combining forward thinking concepts with a hands on approach. We explored Next Generation Extension Methods and Competencies, learning about the modern skills needed to succeed in the field. During the session on Extension market place, I learned a valuable lesson: pitching an idea isn't about being perfect. It's about expressing your views confidently. The day also covered digital competencies and leadership skills that are essential for any modern professional.



Day 3: The lecture on Extension for organic farming and entrepreneurship by Dr. Mahesh Chander Sir was really engaging. The idea of tossing a coin to reflect our risk-taking attitude was a wake-up call to think differently. The visit to the NaaViC Agribusiness Incubation Centre was a highlight. The talk by Dr. Prakash on facilitation for development gave me a clearer idea of what it truly means is and about more competencies and job opportunities. I also got to explore Bangalore and create new memories.



Day 4 : The training expanded beyond technical topics to cover crucial social and business skills. The discussion gender mainstreaming, highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into every project. The thought that mother feeds all and eats last by Dr. Meghajit Sir urged me to think and discuss about the hidden contributions of women in agriculture. The session by Dr. Rahalya S. Ma'am provided more idea on qualitative research, research tools and courses that is very much relevant for extension professional.

Day 5 : The final day brought everything together and also focused on monitoring and evaluation as an emerging career. We were introduced to various methods in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), a vital process for tracking the progress and success of a project. We also learned about using focus group discussions as a powerful method for gathering detailed, honest feedback from people on the ground.

Takeaways

The most impactful part of this training was how it went beyond the curriculum to more meaningful insights.

Self-reflection

I learned that "blaming others is of no use; bring small changes within yourself." This simple shift in perspective gives you control and is the foundation for genuine personal growth.

Embracing the journey

The phrase "it's okay to try" inspired me to step out of my comfort zone. It's a reminder that progress comes from action, not from waiting for perfection

Networking

I learned that networking is a two-way street. It's a way to strengthen leadership skills and knowledge.

What I Appreciate

This training was a valuable experience for a beginner like me in the field particularly because of the hands-on sessions like the "Extension Marketplace." The encouragement to "express your views" also made the environment welcoming and relaxed yet professional. The training's comprehensive approach from technical skills to social topics like gender mainstreaming, and from leadership to entrepreneurship all put forward one agenda that is to create well rounded individuals, not just people with a narrow set of skills. The experience gave me a clear vision of the job opportunities ahead and reinforced the importance of flexibility and adaptability in my career. I am thankful for this program that provided so much insight.



Beyond the formal sessions, the program emphasized the importance of networking and conversation. I left with a renewed appreciation for how much knowledge can be gained through simple interactions and how a single conversation can open up vast new perspectives. I feel much more prepared for the challenges ahead, and I'm grateful for the lessons learned both inside and outside the classroom. I'm leaving with a new sense of purpose, hoping this is the start of a much bigger journey in this field.



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