



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Moving from Doubt to Direction: A Glimpse into the NYPDP Journey

Nisarga K

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



[Nisarga K K](#)

Key Learnings



The session by Dr. Saravanan Raj was particularly motivating, emphasizing resilience, self-motivation, and excellence in extension. The deliberations on new competencies and career opportunities provided valuable global perspectives and broadened my understanding of diverse pathways in agricultural extension. He further reminded us: “When nobody celebrates you, learn to celebrate yourself.

When nobody compliments you, compliment yourself. It's not up to others to keep you encouraged, it's up to you. True encouragement comes from within” His words are truly inspiring.

Facilitation for Development – Dr. Prakashkumar Rathod: Emphasized importance of facilitation in development initiatives. Stakeholder analysis and mapping as critical tools for understanding roles and interests. Policy engagement platforms serve as effective means to influence and support development.

Extension for Organic Farming & Gender Equality – Dr. Mahesh Chander: Discussed the role of extension in promoting organic farming and entrepreneurship opportunities. Gender-sensitive approaches in extension are essential to ensure inclusiveness and equality. Empowering both men and women farmers enhances sustainability in agriculture.

Digital Competencies for Extension Professionals – Dr. Ambarish: Highlighted that digital skills are now core competencies for extension professionals. Technology adoption improves reach, efficiency, and impact of extension services. Capacity building in digital tools is vital for developing future-ready professionals.

Exploring Methodological Landscapes – Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi & Mr. Samrat Sikdar: Explored the shift from traditional research approaches to next-gen methodologies. Importance of adapting new research tools to stay relevant and impactful. Innovative methodologies help address complex agricultural and extension challenges.



Policy Advocacy Landscape – Dr. Manjunatha L: Stated that young extension professionals have strong potential to influence policy advocacy. Understanding the policy landscape is essential for creating enabling environments for agricultural and rural development. Advocacy skills help bridge the gap between grassroots needs and policy-making.

Gender Mainstreaming in Agriculture Extension – Dr. V. Jagadeeswary: Stated that gender integration is vital in shaping inclusive extension services. Mainstreaming gender enhances career opportunities, strengthens competencies, and sets new priorities for agricultural research. Empowering women farmers contributes directly to sustainable agricultural growth.

Research on Gender in Agriculture – Dr. Megha Sharma Shijaqurumayum: Gender-focused research ensures equality, social inclusion, and effective participation in agriculture. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of gender-sensitive initiatives is crucial for impact measurement. Social inclusion strategies are necessary to reduce disparities in agricultural systems.

Dr. Meghajit Sharma provided an insightful explanation on research priorities in gender, social inclusion, and Monitoring & Evaluation



Methodological Shifts & Digital Future – Dr. S. Rahalaya: Research is moving from traditional approaches to next-generation methods. Extension professionals must adapt to evolving methodological landscapes to achieve relevant and impactful outcomes. Digital futures hold immense potential to revolutionize extension and agricultural research.



Monitoring and Evaluation - Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar: Discussed the logical Framework Analysis (LFA) and emphasized the importance of accountability and deriving lessons from program implementation. We also engaged in a hands-on Focus Group Discussion, learning how to organize and conduct FGDs effectively, skills that can be applied to various research contexts, including consumer behavior studies.

Change in Perspectives

This training helped me realize that Extension is not a monolithic field; it consists of multiple areas of specialization. One can focus on select domains while still contributing meaningfully to the broader discipline.



Training Environment

The atmosphere at NYPDP was warm, intellectually rich, and highly engaging. Each speaker brought a unique perspective, and the use of interactive formats made learning dynamic. Whether it was through open discussions, case presentations, or peer group activities, the training never felt passive.

One of the most appreciated aspects was the opportunity to interact with fellow scholars from across the country. These peer exchanges were both insightful and energizing. We came from different agro-climatic zones, research interests, and institutions, yet we shared a common goal: to transform Indian agriculture through innovative extension practices.



What I Appreciate

What I appreciated most about the training program was the wholehearted effort and dedication shown by everyone involved. From the Director to the assistants, coordinators, and all the remarkable speakers, each one went above and beyond to share their knowledge and experiences. Their commitment to making the sessions engaging and informative truly stood out. It was inspiring to see how passionately they contributed to our learning, making the experience impactful and memorable.

Main Takeaways

My most significant takeaways were gaining in-depth knowledge of research priorities, job opportunities, key competencies, and Monitoring & Evaluation, and understanding how these can be applied in the field. The training boosted my confidence in presenting ideas and strengthened my belief in the importance of grassroots communication. Interacting with passionate extensionists from across the country was inspiring and demonstrated the power of collaboration in achieving development goals.

Networking

During the training, I had the meet some opportunity to wonderful Extension Research Scholars and build meaningful connections. Interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds allowed. me to exchange ideas, share experiences, and gain new perspectives. These conversations enriched my understanding and helped me broaden my knowledge in the field.

Building friendships and professional networks were the most valuable aspects of the training





My MANAGE NYPDP journey has been truly transformative and inspiring. It is a commendable initiative by the MANAGE team, thoughtfully designed to guide and empower young extension professionals. The program not only clarified the diverse career pathways in Extension Education but also equipped us with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue them.

Through expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, and exposure to both national and international opportunities, the training broadened my perspective and strengthened my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the field. It was indeed a wonderful step forward in shaping the future of extension professionals.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

Overall, the NYPDP was a well-designed program, and with further enhancements, future training initiatives by MANAGE could have an even greater impact on shaping dynamic and capable extension professionals.

I am grateful to Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bangalore, Dr. Prakashkumar Rathod sir, Dr. V. Jagadeeswary and Dr. Manjunatha.L sir for collaborating with MANAGE. I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Saravanan Raj sir and MANAGE, Hyderabad for providing this opportunity; to Dr. Rahalya mam for coordinating the program, and to all the organizers for making the training smooth and successful.



Ms. Nisaraga K

M. Sc (Agricultural Extension)

Department of Agricultural Extension College of Agricultural

GKVK, University of Agricultural Science

Bengaluru, Karnataka.

e-mail:nisargak24@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>



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA