



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



The Start of Something Meaningful - Learning Beyond Limits

Bharat Kumar Sirvi

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Anand Agricultural University (AAU)
Gujarat, during September 22–26, 2025

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Key Learnings

Day 1 : The first day started with great energy and enthusiasm. Listening to Dr. Saravanan Raj Sir made me realize how vast and dynamic the field of Agricultural Extension really is. He encouraged us to find one area we are passionate about and work consistently toward it. The group activities made me reflect on how important time management is in every task. Being part of a group where everyone had different thoughts and perspectives gave me a great learning experience.

Day 2 : The second day of the program was full of valuable learning and knowledge-sharing sessions on Research Priorities, Methods, Innovations and Climate Change in Agricultural Extension. It began with Dr Saravanan Raj speaking about how to set research priorities and “sell” research by showing its broader relevance. We worked in groups to develop research topics and pitch them focusing on their usefulness and impact.

Dr. Vemireddy (IIM Ahmedabad) gave us insight into what the future may hold for agriculture and farmers -land fragmentation, shifting roles such as some farmers becoming rent-seekers, and especially how these changes affect women. I realized that our role as extension personnel also changes, and we need to improve ourselves continuously.

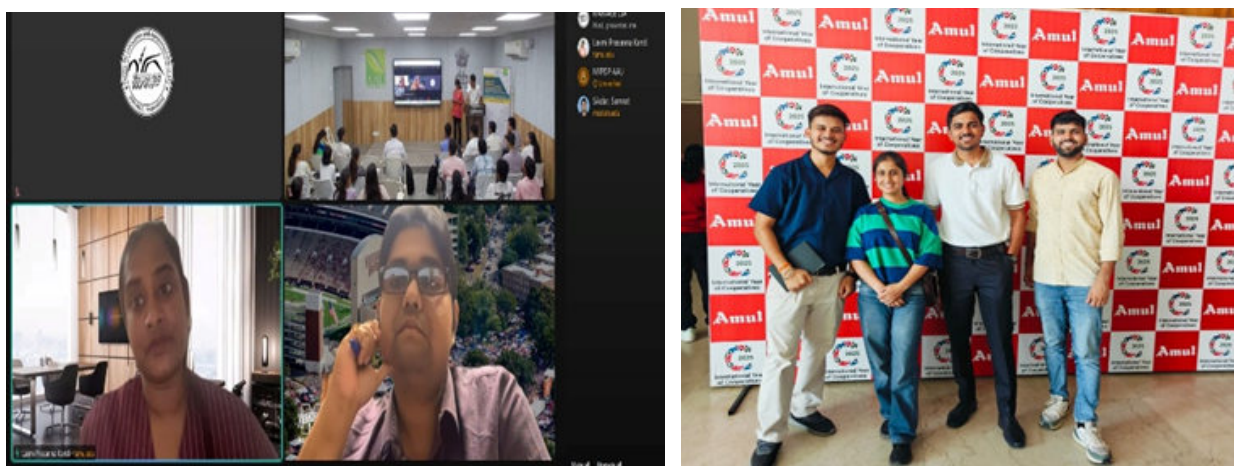
Dr. Shambu Prasad (IRMA) introduced institutional innovations through interactive group work, where we explored real-world models of how institutions adapt and evolve to meet new demands.

Mr. Srajesht Gupta sir, in particular, explained in a very practical manner the diverse areas where agricultural extension plays a crucial role. Through several case studies, he demonstrated how extension professionals contribute effectively across different contexts helping farmers, communities, markets, and institutions address emerging challenges.



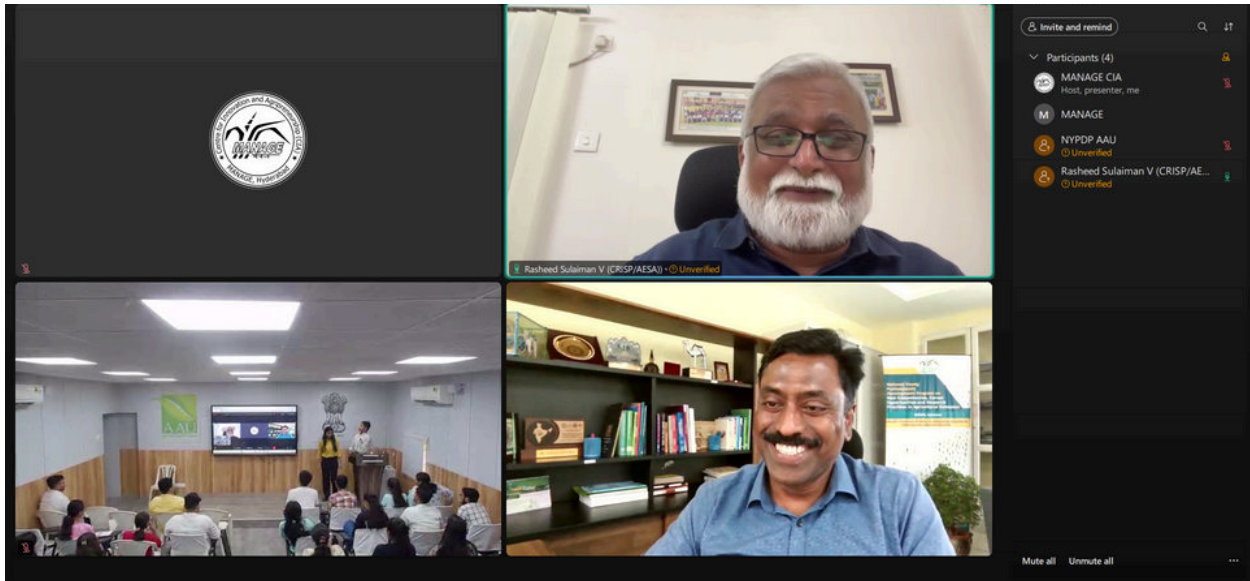


Day 3 : The third day gave me new exposure to global opportunities for higher education. Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi and Mr. Samrat Sikdar shared their experiences of studying abroad which helped me understand how to plan for international programs. I was also inspired by sessions on entrepreneurship by Dr. Mahesh Chander Sir, who motivated us to think innovatively and explore new agribusiness ideas. Visiting AMUL and the FPO at Anand was one of the most practical and enjoyable parts of the training



Day 4 : The fourth day began with an engaging session by Dr. Anuradha Chaudhary, who provided a detailed overview of evaluation techniques used in extension programs followed by Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar from IGNOU, who explained key aspects of monitoring and evaluation competencies. His live demonstration of how to conduct a Focus Group Discussion made the session highly practical and interactive, giving us real exposure to research methods.

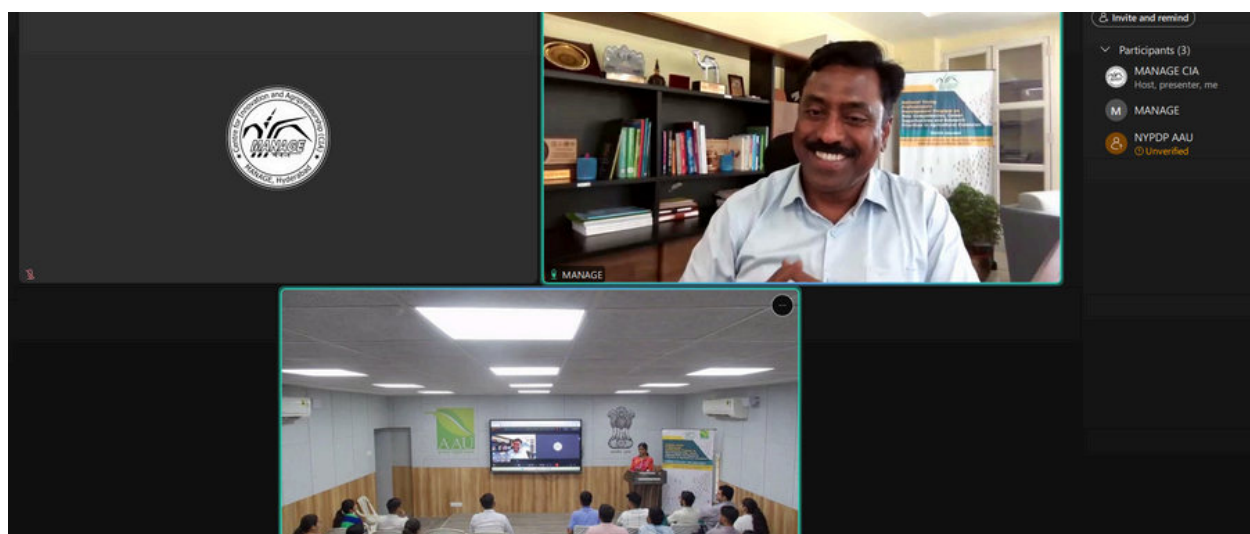
In the afternoon, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman from CRISP highlighted the importance of policy engagement in agricultural extension, showing how data-driven evidence can influence and strengthen policy decisions.



The final session by Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar from CTCRI introduced us to innovative approaches in measurement and scaling within social science research, helping us understand modern analytical tools and frameworks for evaluating program outcomes more effectively.

Day 5 : On the last day, Dr. Krithika Sundaram shared her inspiring journey and explained the wide scope for extension professionals in social science research, NGOs, and knowledge management.

Dr. Saravanan Raj Sir concluded the program with an eye-opening session on digital tools and continuous learning. His message was clear; Keep learning, stay relevant and use digital resources to grow personally and professionally.



2. My Five-Day Training Experience

The five-day MANAGE-NYPDP training was an unforgettable experience. It combined theory, practice, and inspiration beautifully. Each day brought something new be it motivation, technical learning or networking. The way the program was structured kept us engaged from start to end. Meeting professionals from different states and universities made me realize how diverse yet connected our field is.

3. Change in Perspective

Before attending this program, I thought Agricultural Extension mainly focused on farmer advisories, but after NYPDP, my understanding has completely changed. Now I see extension as a bridge between research, policy and community empowerment. It's about innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership fields where we as young professionals can create real impact.

4. Atmosphere and Environment

The atmosphere throughout the program was lively, disciplined and encouraging. The sessions were interactive. Both trainers and participants were always eager to share ideas. The MANAGE and AAU teams managed everything smoothly, making the learning environment friendly and comfortable.



5. What I Appreciated Most

I really appreciated how approachable and motivating all the speakers were. Despite their achievements, they interacted with us with warmth and sincerity. I also liked the mix of sessions from classroom learning to field visits and reflective exercises which made the experience balanced and meaningful

What made it even more special was that the program was designed by extensionists, for extensionists. It felt like a celebration of our profession and a powerful reminder that agricultural extension continues to grow and transform with every new learner and practitioner.

6. Peer Interactions and Networking

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7. My Most Significant Takeaway

The most powerful takeaway for me was realizing that growth begins with self-development. Instead of waiting for opportunities, we must create them by improving our skills and mindset. Agricultural Extension is not just a subject it's a platform to lead change.

8. Application of Knowledge and Skills

I plan to apply what I learned by integrating participatory methods into my academic work, exploring startup ideas related to agriculture and enhancing my digital skills. I will also continue to stay connected with MANAGE and my peers for future learning and collaboration.

9. My MANAGE NYPDP Journey in a Few Lines

The MANAGE–NYPDP 2025 program was not just a training, it was a transformative journey of self-discovery, learning, and growth. Each day brought new perspectives, motivating me to think beyond conventional boundaries and explore the true essence of Agricultural Extension.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to MANAGE, Hyderabad, for organizing this insightful and impactful program, and to Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat for their warm hospitality and excellent coordination throughout the training.

My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Saravanan Raj sir for his inspiring sessions that broadened my vision and motivated me to strive for excellence in the field of Agricultural Extension.

I am also thankful to the entire NYPDP organizing team Dr. S. R. Patel, Dr. J. K. Patel, Dr. Raahalya, and all the dedicated facilitators for their constant support and efforts in making this program so enriching and memorable. Their guidance and encouragement will continue to inspire me in my academic and professional journey ahead.



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