



## National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

### Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



#### Turning the Page to Growth and New Perspectives

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



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## Key Learnings

### Day 1

Our National Young Professionals Development Program journey started with an inspiring inaugural session, followed by a thought-provoking lecture by Dr. Saravanan Raj. We explored new-age competencies for modern extension professionals, the growing importance of digital skills in agriculture and the role of Agri-startups. An interactive group activity allowed us to discuss student and faculty challenges, curriculum improvements and career development pathways. Dr. Saravanan Raj insights emphasized the importance of following one's passion, sincerity and dedication and adapting to opportunities. It was a power-packed day filled with learning, motivation and networking, setting the tone for a transformative journey.

### Day 2

the National Young Professionals Development Program was a thought-provoking exploration of research priorities in Agricultural Extension. We engaged in a group activity, pitching innovative research proposals on topics such as millets as a climate-resilient crop, FPOs, government schemes and climate change. Technical sessions covered research frontiers, institutional innovations, research methodology and the role of extension in climate change.



### Day 3

Day 3 of the program was a dynamic blend of global exposure, research tools and practical learning. We gained valuable insights from Dr. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi and Dr. Samrat Sikdar on international opportunities and strengthening academic profiles. Dr. Parmveer Singh introduced us to the Delphi Technique for building consensus in research, while Dr. Mahesh Chander shared practical strategies for organic farming and entrepreneurship. Dr. Suchiradipta B. emphasized the role of extension professionals in shaping impactful policies. The day concluded with visits to the Amul Chocolate Factory and a Farmer Producer Organization, providing hands-on learning about cooperative models, value addition and farmer-led businesses, bridging theory and practice.



### Day 4

The day began with insightful sessions on evaluation in extension, led by Anuradha Choudhary, covering various frameworks and data collection methods. Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluation, CSR and impact assessment, highlighting key competencies for extension professionals. A focus group discussion on process skills and competency gaps in Agri-extension curriculum provided valuable insights. Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman inspired us with his thoughts on policy engagement, upskilling and writing skills for career growth. Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar introduced emerging approaches in scale and index construction. The day concluded with an inspiring alumni experience shared by Jena Paul and a reflective activity where we recorded our impressions of the program.





## Day 5

The day concluded with inspiring sessions and reflections. Dr. Krithika Sundaram shared her journey and highlighted opportunities for extension graduates in social science research and knowledge management, emphasizing internships and collaborations. Dr. Saravanan Raj discussed the role of digital tools in extension, guiding us on leveraging technology for skill enhancement and professional growth.

The valedictory session with Dr. K. B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellor of AAU and Dr. Saravanan Raj provided a platform to reflect on our journey, express gratitude and cherish the valuable experiences gained during the program.

## Training experience

The program was amazing! The sessions were good, informative and well-planned. I enjoyed meeting people from different states and learning from experts who were passionate about their work.

## Change in Perspective

This program opened my eyes to the true potential of agricultural extension. I now understand it's a powerful tool for change, combining research, technology and entrepreneurship to improve lives. I'm excited to be part of this journey and make a positive impact.

## Training Environment

The program's environment was outstanding, offering a unique blend of professionalism and youth-friendliness. With a perfect balance of structure and creativity, the organizers created a space where participants felt valued, motivated and inspired to learn and grow. From the excellent venue to the warm hospitality, every detail contributed to a truly enriching experience.

## What I appreciate

I loved the variety of experts we met, from various institutions professors to industry experts and experienced extension workers. The organizers did a great job of managing everything smoothly, keeping us on schedule and making learning interactive and fun.

## Networking

I enjoyed the diverse group of speakers, from best institution's professors to industry experts. The organizers were well-prepared and the interactive sessions made learning engaging. Interacting with fellow participants broadened my understanding of different viewpoints from various parts of the country. Building connections with like-minded individuals emphasized the value of teamwork and networking for future endeavours.





## Main takeaways

The most impactful lesson I learned is that we ourselves give value to our field. A quote from one of the speakers really resonated with me. I'll also remember the importance of being globally aware while working locally.



## Action plans

Inspired by the comprehensive learnings from this program, I have concrete plans to apply the knowledge and skills gained in my future endeavours.





## My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The MANAGE NYPDP program was more than just a training experience - it was a catalyst for growth. The program's emphasis on experiential learning, collaboration and mentorship helped me discover my potential and ignited a passion for creating positive change in the field of extension.



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