



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Strengthening Foundations and Harvesting Global Opportunities: A Ph.D. Scholar's Reflection on the MANAGE NYPDP Experience

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE, Hyderabad during March 24-28, 2025.

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The MANAGE NYPDP training program has been an enriching and transformative experience for me. As a second-year Ph.D. scholar focusing on Agricultural Extension, this training opened my eyes to new perspectives, methodologies, and career opportunities that I had not previously considered.

Key Learnings

Day 1: A New Perspective on Agricultural Extension

The journey began with an inspiring session by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director of MANAGE. His story deeply resonated with me, especially as someone passionate about showcasing Agricultural Extension as a dynamic and impactful discipline. I have always believed that Agricultural Extension deserves equal recognition as any other academic field, and his words reaffirmed that belief. His journey reminded me that every situation, no matter how challenging, holds the potential to become an opportunity for growth and learning. The day ended with a group activity where we discussed the challenges and opportunities in the field. Interacting with fellow research scholars was enriching, offering me diverse perspectives.



Day 2: Rethinking Agricultural Extension

On the second day, I had the privilege of attending an excellent session by Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman, who highlighted the importance of enhancing the current curriculum to build the competencies of extension professionals. He emphasized how research findings can be translated into societal impact through policy briefs and discussions. This shifted my perception of extension work, it's no longer just about technology transfer, but about creating meaningful societal change. A session on Social Network Analysis (SNA) further expanded my understanding of research methodologies.

Day 3: Learning Through Field Visit and Expert Sessions

The third day included a visit to Access Livelihoods, where I saw firsthand how organizations serve farming communities. This hands-on experience helped me understand the challenges and rewards of service-oriented work in agriculture. A session on research methodology by Dr. Seethuraman provided valuable guidance on scale construction and ensuring research reliability. The session on the use of AI in agriculture particularly excited me, as I am currently exploring ways to integrate AI and blockchain in farming systems.

Day 4: Exploring Career Opportunities and Research Collaborations

The fourth day focused on career prospects abroad and international research collaborations. Sessions by Mr. Vikram, Ms. Sravani, Ms. Laxmi, and Mr. Paramveer opened new avenues for advancing a career in Agricultural Extension.



Dr. Mahesh Chander's session on gender and international research collaborations left a profound impact. His journey across 52 countries, working on global agricultural projects, deeply inspired me. It showed me that with dedication and vision, it's possible to contribute meaningfully on a global scale. The day concluded with a session on policy engagement, where we brainstormed the implications of our research.

Day 5: Research Paper Writing and Evaluation Techniques

The final day began with a session on academic writing and bibliometric analysis by Dr. Rahalya. It helped refine my writing approach to ensure my research is impactful and well-grounded. We also had a session on monitoring and evaluation, where Dr. Sasidhar guided us through the process of conducting focus group discussions. The week concluded with reflections, and I left with a renewed sense of purpose and direction in my research journey.

Change in Perspective



This training significantly changed my outlook on Agricultural Extension. I now view it as a platform to create greater societal impact through policy, research, and inclusive development. The training also highlighted the importance of aligning with the updated curriculum to stay relevant in today's competitive landscape.

As a recommendation, I suggest organizing mandatory online orientation sessions for students across universities to highlight the significance and relevance of the evolving curriculum and its impact on employability.

Training Environment

Heartfelt Hospitality and Thoughtful Organization

One of the most memorable aspects of the training was the warm hospitality and well-organized arrangements. The delicious food and comfortable accommodations created a positive and welcoming atmosphere. Each day was thoughtfully planned, encouraging both learning and interaction in a natural and supportive environment.



What I Appreciate

What I appreciated most was the sincere effort by MANAGE in organizing this first-ever Young Professional Development Program. The presence of eminent resource persons and the opportunities for in-depth discussions made the sessions not just informative but also inspiring. It was evident that each session was curated with great care, reflecting a deep commitment to our growth as young professionals.

Main Takeaway

This training deepened my understanding of Agricultural Extension and equipped me with new tools for both my Ph.D. research and career planning. The sessions on methodology, policy engagement, and global career paths offered clarity and direction. I was especially inspired by the discussion on international collaborations, which aligns with my ambition to contribute to global agricultural research.

Action Plan



I plan to apply the skills gained in this training to my ongoing research work and in preparing for the ARS exam. More importantly, this training has given me the confidence that my work can transcend academic boundaries and make a real-world impact. I'm now even more motivated to pursue my goals with renewed focus and determination.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

My MANAGE NYPDP journey was insightful, intellectually stimulating, and truly energizing. The program provided valuable knowledge, excellent hospitality, and an ideal mix of learning, networking, and inspiration. It has equipped me with the motivation and confidence to apply the lessons learned to both my academic research and future professional decisions. This experience will have a lasting impact on my journey in the field of Agricultural Extension.

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