



# National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

## Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



### From Herding Buffaloes to Learning with Fellows: The Adventure of a Village Boy to MANAGE

#### Thangminlun Haokip

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

 [Thangminlun Haokip](#)

The MANAGE National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP) provided a transformative learning experience that significantly shaped my understanding of agricultural extension and my professional aspirations. Over five intensive days, I engaged with expert resource persons, connected with peers from diverse backgrounds, and gained valuable insights that will influence my academic and career journey. Key learnings from each day were:



### ***Day 1: Inspiration and Perseverance***

Dr. Saravanan Raj's journey from a young doctoral candidate with limited publications and academic experience to being selected as an Assistant Professor and now serving as the Director of MANAGE, deeply resonated with me. His story exemplified how perseverance, hard work, and self-belief can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Thriving for over fifteen years in the culturally distinct state of Arunachal Pradesh, while facing innumerable daily challenges, his career trajectory is a powerful reminder that determination can lead to remarkable achievements, regardless of one's initial circumstances. In him, I saw how passionate someone could be about agricultural extension. I am deeply inspired by his sacrifice and his dedication to organizing this training solely to encourage students pursuing this field. His commitment extends beyond professional duty, reflecting a genuine desire to nurture the next generation of extension professionals.

### ***Day 2: New Perspectives in Agricultural Extension***

Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman's session on emerging competencies in agricultural extension was particularly enlightening. His work with the Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) initiative and insights into policy engagement opened my eyes to new approaches in the field. The session challenged me to think beyond traditional extension methods and to consider how policy-level interventions can create systemic change. I felt strongly encouraged to revive my writing habit, especially through blogs, research articles, and possibly policy papers in the future.

### ***Day 3: Practical Approaches to Rural Development***

The visit to Access Livelihoods was exceptionally valuable in helping me understand grassroots implementation. The opportunity to ask questions about establishing farmer cooperatives, farmer producer organizations, and operating NGOs focused on rural community development offered practical knowledge that textbooks alone cannot provide.



Dr. P. Sethuraman Sivakumar's session on Emerging Approaches in Measurement and Scaling in Social Research introduced me to foundational concepts of measurement in social science research. It bridged theoretical frameworks with practical applications, offering methodologies that I can directly apply in my upcoming research projects.



### ***Day 4: International Opportunities and Knowledge Dissemination***

The session on graduate study and career opportunities in the United States aligned perfectly with my aspirations to pursue doctoral studies abroad. Dr. Mahesh Chander's experiences inspired me to explore diverse knowledge dissemination channels, from blogging and academic publishing to potentially authoring books. The outdoor group exercises, focused on reflecting upon earlier sessions, fostered collaborative learning in a relaxed environment.

### ***Day 5: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Methods***

Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar's session on Monitoring and Evaluation, especially the hands-on experience with Focus Group Discussion (FGD) techniques, was the most impactful part of the program. The clarity of concepts, practical orientation, and immediate applicability made this session one of the most valuable learning experiences of my academic journey.



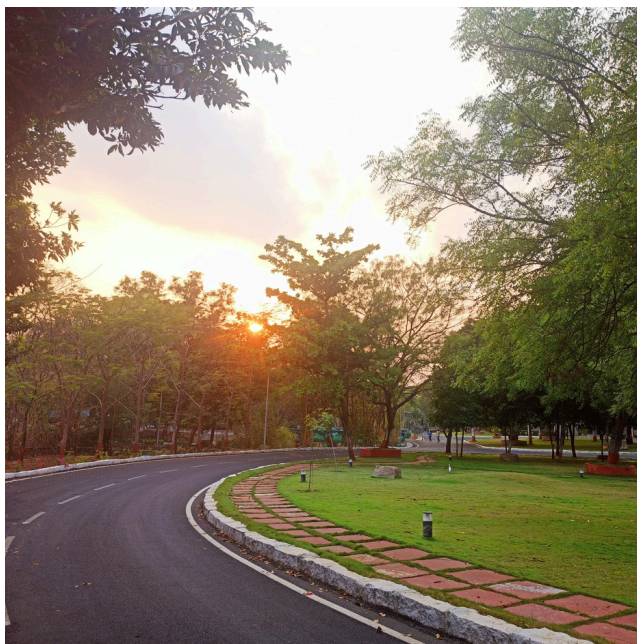
## Training Experience

This five-day program served as a profound wake-up call, prompting me to critically evaluate my relationship with agricultural extension. While I've always claimed passion for this subject, the training made me realize how much more there is to learn and the level of dedication required to truly master the field. It not only expanded my knowledge but also led to a deep, personal reassessment of my commitment to this discipline.



## Change in Perspective

The training reaffirmed my belief that agricultural extension is neither superior nor inferior to other disciplines, it is a vital field with unique contributions to make. More importantly, it exposed me to emerging and non-conventional career paths within agricultural extension, many of which I had not previously considered. These insights have expanded my vision for my professional future.



## Training Environment

The MANAGE campus provided an ideal learning environment, scenic, green, and peaceful. Waking to birdsong, enjoying comfortable accommodations, and having access to excellent meals and refreshments created a holistic experience that supported learning. The friendly and welcoming atmosphere encouraged open interactions with both peers and resource persons, making the entire program feel like a celebration of knowledge, community, and life itself.

## What I Appreciate



The greatest value of the program lay in the opportunity to learn directly from leading experts in various specializations within agricultural extension. The ability to interact personally with them, ask questions, and receive guidance was truly invaluable, something that conventional academic courses often lack.

## Networking

Engaging with peers from various institutions and states exposed me to diverse traditions, cuisines, dialects, appearances, and styles of dress. This multicultural exchange helped me appreciate differences and highlighted the strength of teamwork across cultural boundaries. These connections will form the foundation of a professional network that I hope to rely on throughout my career.



## Main Takeaway



My most profound realization is that excellence requires total commitment, investing one's heart, soul, and time into mastering a chosen field. This level of dedication is what distinguishes true experts and drives meaningful impact. Mastery is not the product of casual interest, but of passionate and sustained engagement with the subject matter.



## Action Plan

As I begin my M.Sc. research, I plan to apply the methodological approaches and conceptual frameworks introduced during the training. I aim to focus on research topics with tangible impacts on agricultural communities, rather than merely fulfilling academic requirements. The research design and evaluation techniques shared by Dr. Sasidhar will be especially useful in ensuring that my work maintains both academic rigor and practical relevance.



Additionally, I plan to document my learning journey and research insights through blogs and, eventually, academic publications, drawing inspiration from the knowledge dissemination approaches discussed during the program.

## My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

From my humble beginnings herding buffalos to learning alongside fellows and engaging with leading experts in agricultural extension, the MANAGE NYPDP has transformed not just my summer break but my entire professional outlook. It has served as both an eye-opening experience and a moment of awakening to the depth and breadth of my chosen field. The program seamlessly blended intellectual stimulation with the joy of learning in a supportive community.

**Mr. Thangminlun Haokip**

M.Sc. Agricultural Extension

Division of Agricultural Extension

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Pusa, New Delhi

e-mail: [thangminlunhk@gmail.com](mailto:thangminlunhk@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