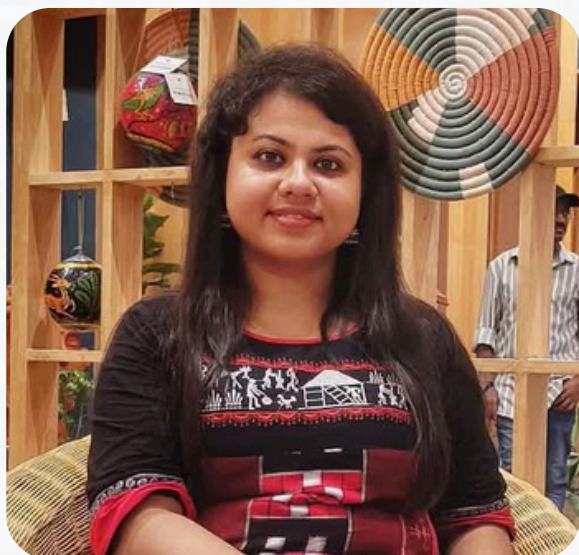




National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Transforming and Strengthening Agricultural Extension: A 5-days Journey through NYPDP Training

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This five-day training program offered a transformative exploration of modern agricultural extension approaches, addressing the evolution from food security to nutritional security and climate resilience in India's agricultural landscape. The program covered critical topics including research reorientation, gender inclusion, indigenous knowledge systems, entrepreneurship, climate resilience, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. It provided a comprehensive understanding of the future of agricultural extension while opening doors to professional growth and global opportunities.

Key Learnings

Day 1: Evolving Agricultural Extension Research Traditions



- Shift from food scarcity to nutritional security and climate resilience
- Introduction to the 3Rs: Reawakening, Reforming, and Revisioning
- Importance of reforming outdated research approaches

Day 2: Gender Research, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and Capacity Development

- Setting research priorities at multiple levels
- 3Rs for gender inclusion: Recognizing, Reinforcing, and Removing barriers
- Role of IKS in biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture

Day 3: Global Opportunities, Organic Farming, and Entrepreneurship

- Skill requirements for global and national careers in extension
- Organic farming as a niche opportunity
- Entrepreneurial journeys showcasing innovation in agriculture



Day 4: Social Science Research, Climate Resilience, and MEAL Frameworks

- Advanced methodologies in social science research
- Climate-resilient agricultural practices
- MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Assessment, and Learning) frameworks

Day 5: Agricultural Extension Strategies, Climate Change, and Decision Modelling

- Core competencies for modern Extension and Advisory Services (EAS) professionals
- ICARDA's practical approaches in extension
- Psychological insights into decision-making processes in agricultural extension

Change in Perspective

The program reshaped my understanding of agricultural extension. It is no longer just about increasing production, it must now encompass nutritional outcomes, gender equity, entrepreneurship, and climate resilience. This training was an eye-opener in terms of career opportunities as well. Without this program, I would not have discovered so many pathways through which I can pursue a meaningful career in this field.



Training Experience

The training was enriching, well-organized, and intellectually stimulating. Each day introduced new dimensions to agricultural extension, transitioning from conventional paradigms to a more holistic, inclusive, and innovation-driven approach.

Training Environment

The training environment was engaging and inclusive. It offered the perfect blend of formal instruction and informal interaction. From the rest rooms to the lecture halls, every part of the journey was so eventful that we never felt like strangers in a new place. The setting fostered camaraderie and made learning more enjoyable.

What I Appreciate

- Diversity of topics and expert speakers
- Field exposure and practical learning
- Highly interactive sessions
- Relevance of content to current and future needs
- Encouragement of critical and reflective thinking



Networking

The program facilitated meaningful peer interaction, allowing the exchange of field practices and creating a platform for future collaboration. Networking with participants from different regions added a rich, multicultural dimension to the experience.

Main Takeaway

The most significant academic takeaways were the 3Rs framework and the emphasis on gender inclusion, indigenous knowledge, emerging research areas, entrepreneurship, and MEAL systems. Beyond academics, I gained self-confidence, built valuable friendships, and found mentors who will continue to guide my journey.

Action Plan

As a researcher, I plan to incorporate gender-inclusive and climate-smart ideas that foster new entrepreneurial opportunities in agriculture. Having worked with generational dynamics, I am already aware of the importance of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). I will strive to integrate IKS with modern innovations to create meaningful opportunities that support sustainable agriculture.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey



The MANAGE NYPDP was a transformative journey that seamlessly blended traditional wisdom with modern science, and theory with practice. It not only expanded my academic horizons but also enriched me personally and professionally

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