



# National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

## Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



### My Training Reflections on NYPDP at MANAGE

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**Bharath M,**

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

 [Bharath M](#)

I had been eagerly waiting to attend this program since last year, ever since I joined the Master's program in Veterinary Extension Education at ICAR–Indian Veterinary Research Institute. This training provided a wonderful learning opportunity, not only from the resource persons and organizers but also from my fellow trainees. All trainees received a warm welcome on the first day of the training program. As we introduced ourselves, I realized we came from diverse academic backgrounds, Master's and Ph.D. scholars from Agricultural Extension, Veterinary Extension, Fisheries Extension, and Home Science Extension, all united by a shared goal: to improve the lives of farmers and rural communities. The five-day training was eye-opening and life-changing, and I learned a great deal from it.

## Key Learnings



**Day 1:** Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director of the Centre for Agricultural Extension, highlighted the changing trends and research priorities in Extension Education. With a long-standing career in the field, he emphasized that priorities vary based on geographical contexts and the nature of program evaluations. International organizations like CGIAR, GFAR, and GFRAS are actively engaging in extension action research. To participate in such research, professionals must acquire diverse skills, including communication, data analytics, event management, and social networking. Group activities helped us reflect on the pros and cons of being an extensionist.

**Day 2:** We were introduced to the Agricultural Extension in South Asia (AESAs) platform and learned about civil society organizations like the Centre for Research and Social Policy (CRISP), where extension-related roles are often disguised under different job titles. This insight was particularly valuable for young professionals like me who are considering unconventional career paths. The day ended with a fascinating session on Network Analysis.



**Day 3:** We learned that opportunities in the field of extension are vast, provided one has the right skills and competencies. We explored the role of Access Livelihoods, an NGO helping improve cooperative functioning and market access for farmers. In the afternoon, Dr. Sethuraman's session on Scaling and Measurement in Social Research focused on enhancing research quality in behavioral studies. He stressed the importance of "Research in Research Methodology" and introduced us to tools such as case studies and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), which are becoming increasingly prominent in social science research.

**Day 4:** The integration of digital technology into agriculture was a key theme. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing is collaborating with agricultural institutes to deploy mobile apps, IoT tools, AI, and ML for improving farmer livelihoods. Later, we heard inspiring experiences from professionals who had pursued international careers. They shared essential requirements like publishing quality research, building a strong CV, developing English language skills, and securing funding. Patience and a strong support network are crucial in this journey. A virtual session by Ms. Suchitra Bhattacharya on policy engagement was both interactive and insightful. It highlighted how extension professionals can influence policy-making, a space where their contribution is increasingly important.





**Day 5:** Dr. Raahalya conducted a session on the latest research tools, journal metrics, and data analysis methods such as bibliometrics. This was followed by a session on Monitoring and Evaluation by Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar. He discussed frameworks like the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) and emphasized the importance of accountability and deriving lessons from program implementation. We also engaged in a hands-on Focus Group Discussion, learning how to organize and conduct FGDs effectively, skills that can be applied to various research contexts, including consumer behavior studies.

## Change in Perspective

This training helped me realize that Extension is not a monolithic field, it consists of multiple areas of specialization. One can focus on select domains while contributing meaningfully to the broader discipline.



## Training Environment

I appreciated the environment that supported focused learning, the dedication of my fellow participants, the structure of the sessions, and the infectious energy of the resource persons. It created a space where learning felt natural and meaningful.

## Action Plan

I plan to build my competencies through consistent and sincere efforts, particularly in collaborative environments that aim to improve the lives of farmers. In a nutshell, I believe this training should be considered an essential part of academic programs, as degrees alone are not enough, we also need real-world skills. I have already committed to dedicating 30 minutes each day to learning a new skill.



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this transformative experience and to reflect upon it through this note.

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