



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



A Journey of Insight and Impact: My NYPDP Diary

Mini,

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCS HAU), Hisar during December 2-6, 2024.

 [mini-sharma](#)

Day 1: I gained valuable insights into major job opportunities in the field of Agricultural Extension, along with the key competencies required to excel in this domain. I also learned about research priorities, including major thrust areas and researchable issues within extension research.

Day 2: The sessions focused on agri-startups, social science research, and knowledge management. I understood how innovation and entrepreneurship are being encouraged in agriculture and the vital role of effectively managing knowledge in research and extension work.

Day 3: I learned about Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) practices, which are essential for assessing the impact and effectiveness of extension programs. The formal group discussion was particularly engaging and enhanced my understanding of collaborative learning and the exchange of ideas.



Day 4: This day offered an informative perspective on career opportunities in Extension and Evaluation in the United States. It broadened my awareness of global career paths and the skill sets needed to pursue them.

Day 5: On the final day, the sessions highlighted the new and emerging capacities required in Agricultural Extension. It was a thought-provoking conclusion to the program, emphasizing the need for adaptability, innovation, and continuous learning in the field.



Training Experience

My five-day training experience was both enriching and insightful. Each day offered a unique learning opportunity that broadened my understanding of Agricultural Extension and related fields. From exploring job prospects, competencies, and research priorities to gaining exposure to agri-startups, knowledge management, and social science research, the training was thoughtfully structured and highly relevant. The sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation, along with the formal group discussions, provided practical knowledge and interactive learning. Learning about international career opportunities, especially in Extension and Evaluation in the United States, added a global perspective to the program.

The concluding day focused on evolving capacities in Agricultural Extension, encouraging us to think ahead and adapt to future challenges. Overall, the training was a well-rounded blend of theory, practice, and career guidance. It has significantly enhanced my perspective and motivation in the field of extension and outreach.



Change in Perspective

This training has significantly changed my perspective on Agricultural Extension. It broadened my understanding and reshaped how I view extension education. Previously, I believed extension roles were limited to positions like Assistant Professor or Extension Scientist through the ASRB. However, I now realize that the field of Extension Education is vast and full of opportunities. Career paths can extend into NGOs, research assistant/associate roles, and numerous other sectors. This training has opened my eyes to the diverse career possibilities within the field.



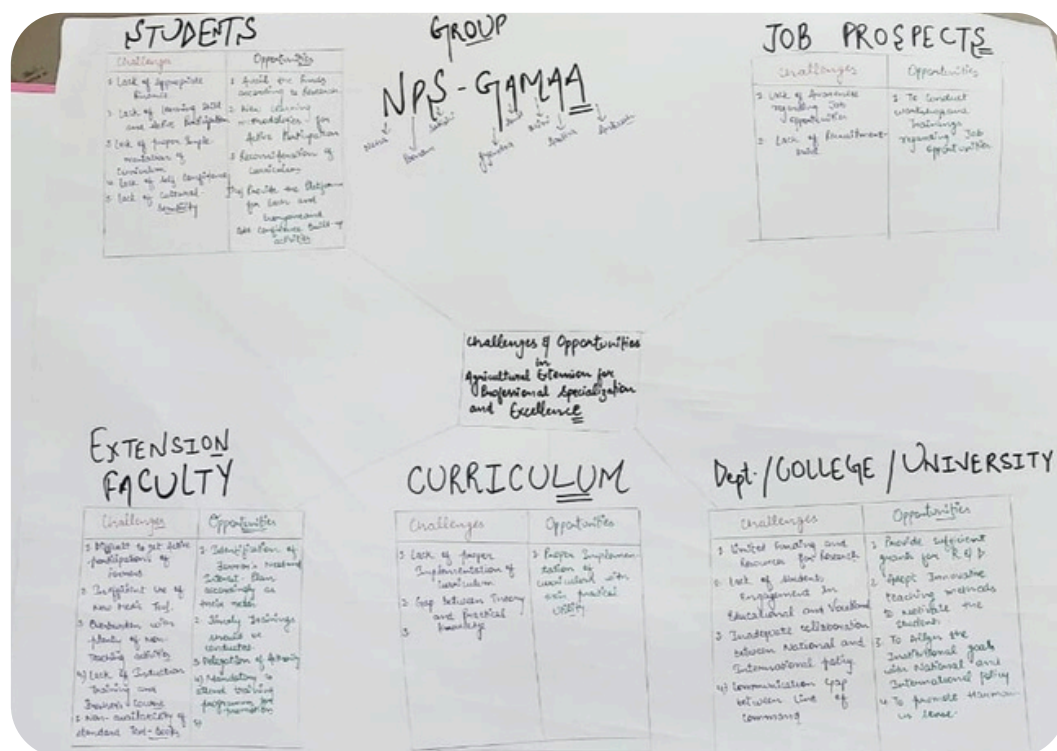
The training atmosphere was highly positive and encouraging. The environment was peaceful and well-organized, which played a vital role in enhancing the learning experience. When we aim to learn something new, the setting matters, a distraction-free and focused environment is essential.

This training venue provided exactly that, allowing me to absorb knowledge effectively and participate actively. The overall experience was motivating and kept me engaged throughout.



What I Appreciate

What I appreciated most about the training program was the wholehearted effort and dedication shown by everyone involved. From the Director to the assistants, coordinators, and all the remarkable speakers, each one went above and beyond to share their knowledge and experiences. Their commitment to making the sessions engaging and informative truly stood out. It was inspiring to see how passionately they contributed to our learning, making the entire program impactful and memorable.



Networking



During the training, I had the opportunity to meet some wonderful Extension Research Scholars and build meaningful connections. Interacting with peers from diverse backgrounds allowed me to exchange ideas, share experiences, and gain new perspectives. These conversations enriched my understanding and helped me broaden my knowledge in the field. Building friendships and a professional network was one of the most valuable aspects of the training.

Main Takeaway

My most significant takeaways were gaining in-depth knowledge of research priorities, job opportunities, key competencies, and Monitoring & Evaluation and how these can be applied in the field. The training boosted my confidence in presenting ideas and strengthened my belief in the importance of grassroots communication. Interacting with passionate extensionists from across the country inspired me and demonstrated the power of collaboration in achieving development goals.

- *Strengthening Community Engagement:* I will use insights from the training on communication, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management to design more participatory and impactful extension programs at the grassroots level.
- *Promoting Agri-Entrepreneurship:* The sessions on agri-startups motivated me to support and guide rural youth and farmers in developing innovative agri-based enterprises, bridging them with government schemes and incubation support.
- *Pursuing Extension Research:* With a clearer understanding of research priorities and thrust areas, I aim to contribute to action-based research that addresses local issues and supports evidence-based policymaking.



- *Leveraging Global Opportunities:* Learning about international career options, particularly in Extension and Evaluation, has inspired me to explore further studies, collaborations, or roles abroad that align with my passion for rural development and capacity building.
- *Continuous Skill Development:* The training has encouraged me to continually build my skills in proposal writing, digital communication, and knowledge dissemination to remain updated and effective in the field.

My MANAGE NYPDP journey has been truly transformative and inspiring. It is a commendable initiative by the MANAGE team, thoughtfully designed to guide and empower young extension professionals. The program not only clarified the diverse career pathways in Extension Education but also equipped us with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue them.



Through expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, and exposure to both national and international opportunities, the training broadened my outlook and strengthened my commitment to contributing meaningfully to the field. It was indeed a wonderful step forward in shaping the future of extension professionals.

Overall, the NYPDP was a well-designed program, and with further enhancements, future training initiatives by MANAGE could have an even greater impact on shaping dynamic and capable extension professionals.

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