



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Empowered Through Learning: My NYPDP Training Journey

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad during June 09-13, 2025.

 **Supriya. Pallya**

Day 1: The training program commenced with a highly interactive and thought-provoking session led by Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, Hyderabad. His insights during the opening lecture offered valuable lessons that set a powerful tone for the rest of the program. Dr. Saravanan Raj emphasized several key takeaways that are essential for personal and professional growth;

- Success is a gradual journey, achieved step by step.
- Learn from others and build meaningful connections.
- Celebrate even the small wins in life.
- Speak thoughtfully and make the most of every opportunity to express yourself.
- Choose your words carefully and communicate with clarity.

These reflections served as guiding principles to inspire participants and encourage holistic development throughout the training. The session on 'Research on Gender in Agriculture' by Dr. Meghajit Sharma focused on key dimensions of gender, youth, and social inclusion within the agricultural landscape. A central highlight was the introduction of the 3R framework: Recognize, Reinforce, and Remove; as an approach to effectively engage and empower women in agriculture.

An interactive group activity encouraged participants to identify gender-related challenges in the sector and present practical methods for promoting empowerment and equity.

Following this, a hands-on session on 'Time Management' by Dr. Saravanan Raj provided a valuable opportunity for participants to introspect on their individual time utilization, fostering greater personal productivity and awareness.

Day 2: The second day of the training program featured a series of insightful lectures delivered by distinguished speakers. Topics ranged from innovative methods in measurement and scaling in social research by Dr. Sethuraman; agricultural extension approaches for ecological sustainability by Dr. Ramanjaneyulu; policy engagement by Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman, and the use of AI tools in agricultural research by Dr. Aditya Sinha. These sessions provided valuable perspectives on applying research methodologies, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and recognizing the role of policy development and reform. The discussion on AI emphasized how technology can accelerate research workflows and enhance data analysis for more impactful outcomes.



Day 3: The third day of the training program began with a field visit to Access Livelihood, an NGO based in Hyderabad. This visit offered valuable insights into the organization's multifaceted support for rural communities, particularly in areas such as enterprise development, input supply, financial access, agricultural processing, technology integration, and market linkages for farm products. In the second half of the day, Dr. Mahesh Chander focused on key themes including organic farming extension, entrepreneurship, and gender equality. These sessions deepened participants' understanding of empowering systems, strengthening agricultural supply chains, promoting agripreneurship, and advancing gender equity in the agriculture sector.

Day 4: The fourth day of the training program opened with a pivotal session focused on emerging competencies, evolving career pathways, and key research priorities in agricultural extension by Dr. Vikram, Ms. Laxmi and Mr. Samrat. Participants gained exposure to a wide array of career opportunities, both within national institutions and international organizations, highlighting the vast and often under-explored potential within the field. In the latter half of the day, a visit to the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Hyderabad provided hands-on exposure to cutting-edge technological initiatives. The participants were introduced to innovative applications of artificial intelligence, block-chain technologies, and data analytics; shedding light on their growing relevance in agricultural research and extension services.

Day 5: The concluding day of the training program began with an enlightening session on research publication and bibliometric analysis led by Dr. Raahalya. This was followed by an engaging presentation by Dr. Sasidhar, focusing on the essential monitoring and evaluation competencies required for extension professionals.

A focus group discussion was conducted to provide participants with experiential exposure, complemented by a hands-on activity designed to build practical understanding of monitoring and evaluation techniques.



The programme culminated in a formal certificate distribution ceremony, presided over by Dr. Saravanan Raj, marking the successful completion of an enriching and multidimensional learning experience.

Training Experience



The training experience helped in gaining exposure to emerging opportunities, evolving skill sets, and cross-cutting themes like gender inclusion, digital tools, and sustainability can truly reshape how one views the role of agricultural extension in today's world. It sounds like the training didn't just inform, it transformed.

Change in Perspective

Yes, It indeed did change the perspective on agricultural extension. Staying abreast of evolving technologies, maintaining strong professional networks, and consistently contributing your best are cornerstones of not just personal growth, but meaningful impact in agricultural extension. This kind of mindset fosters innovation, collaboration, and resilience in a field that's constantly adapting to new challenges.



Training Environment

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm hospitality extended by the staff throughout the training program. The excellent accommodation and delicious food created a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere, enabling participants to engage wholeheartedly in every session and activity.

What I Appreciate



I deeply appreciate the distinguished faculty members who generously shared their time and expertise with the participants. Their insights into emerging trends in agricultural extension were invaluable, offering both depth and breadth through real-world experiences. It was particularly enriching to engage with experts from both national and international backgrounds.

Each session was thoughtfully designed and seamlessly executed, creating a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment. I'd also like to commend the media team for their continuous encouragement, motivating participants to actively share their perspectives and reflections. Their emphasis on leveraging professional social media platforms helped foster learning and build essential competencies in agricultural extension.

Networking



Engaging with fellow participants from diverse backgrounds encouraged collaborative learning, broadened perspectives, and fostered a deeper understanding of the challenges and innovations in agricultural extension. These conversations often sparked new ideas, clarified concepts, and built a strong sense of community among professionals with shared interests.

Additionally, the networking opportunities provided a valuable platform for building long-term professional relationships. Staying connected with peers and experts from the field not only opens doors to future collaborations but also reinforces continuous learning and growth in this ever-evolving domain.

Main Takeaway



One of the most significant takeaways from the training was the realization that agricultural extension is a dynamic and evolving field, with far-reaching potential beyond traditional roles. The program highlighted how staying informed about emerging technologies, engaging in interdisciplinary learning, and fostering collaborative networks are crucial to making a meaningful impact.

The exposure to AI tools, gender-inclusive strategies, organic farming systems, policy engagement, and practical skills like monitoring and evaluation underscored the importance of being a well-rounded and forward-thinking extension professional. More than just knowledge, the training offered a shift in mindset, encouraging innovation, inclusivity, and continuous growth.

Action Plan

Going forward, I intend to integrate the knowledge and skills gained from this training program into both my professional practices and academic pursuits. The insights into emerging technologies, inclusive approaches in agricultural extension, and evidence-based policy engagement will guide my efforts in designing and implementing more impactful, sustainable interventions.

I plan to stay connected with the network of peers and experts I encountered, leveraging these relationships to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and stay updated on sectoral innovations. The emphasis on AI tools, time management, and research methodologies will also help me improve the efficiency and quality of my work, particularly in data analysis, extension strategies, and publication. Ultimately, I aim to be a more adaptive and resourceful extension professional, one who contributes meaningfully to the evolving landscape of agriculture and rural development.





A transformative experience that expanded my horizons in agricultural extension. From insightful sessions on emerging technologies and policy engagement to hands-on activities in time management and gender inclusion, the program empowered me with knowledge, skills, and a renewed mindset. It wasn't just training but a platform for innovation, collaboration, and professional growth.

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