



## National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

### Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



**Crafting a Future of Impact in Agriculture: From Curiosity to Confidence as a Young Change-Maker**

#### **Mrityunjai Anand**

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

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**Day 1 (June 9, 2025):** The program began with an overview of MANAGE's vision and legacy, followed by speed networking which helped break the ice. I gained a comprehensive understanding of new competencies and global job opportunities in agricultural extension from Dr. Saravanan Raj Sir.



The session on gender in agriculture, social inclusion, and monitoring & evaluation by Dr. Meghajit Sharma made me aware of the critical role of inclusivity in research and practice. The "World Café" activity provided an engaging way to reflect on challenges in extension.

**Day 2 (June 10, 2025):** This day emphasized the transformative role of ICTs in agriculture. Dr. Saravanan Raj's session helped me understand the digital skillsets needed in extension. I learned about value chain advisory services, innovative research scaling methods, and ecological agriculture. The sessions by Dr. Ramanjaneyulu on community sustainable extension and Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman on policy engagement provided insights into system-level approaches for impactful extension.

**Day 3 (June 11, 2025):** We visited Access Livelihoods Consulting, where I observed real-life models of community-led extension and entrepreneurship. Dr. Mahesh Chander's session focused on organic farming and gender-equitable entrepreneurship, reinforcing inclusive development strategies. In the evening, Dr. Saravanan Raj explained the significance of agri-innovation and incubation, followed by insights on indigenous food systems by Ms. Divina Matla.

**Day 4 (June 12, 2025):** This day was all about career avenues in extension, with enriching sessions on graduate study opportunities in the USA, experiences from NGOs, KVKs, and FPOs. Dr. Arun Balamatti's talk outlined practical strategies and research priorities in agricultural extension. The visit to C-DAC Hyderabad introduced us to advanced technologies like AI, blockchain, and big data applications in agriculture, which was truly futuristic and inspiring.

**Day 5 (June 13, 2025):** We explored emerging research trends, monitoring & evaluation competencies and conducted a hands-on Focus Group Discussion (FGD) exercise. It was very practical and improved my understanding of field-level data collection. The final sessions included sharing insights, drafting action plans, and discussing how agri-tech startups are revolutionizing agriculture

### Training Experience

It was an eye-opening and transformative experience. The sessions were highly interactive, rich in knowledge, and well-structured. The diversity of participants and the enthusiasm of resource persons made it both intellectually stimulating and personally fulfilling.



### Change in Perspective

Yes, absolutely. I previously saw extension as a mostly field-based role, but this program broadened my view. I now understand that agricultural extension is deeply interconnected with research, digital communication, international collaboration, and entrepreneurship. It made me see my role as a change agent with a global outlook.



### Training Environment

The environment was dynamic, professional, and youth-friendly. The organizers maintained a balance between discipline and creativity. The venue, hospitality, and the encouragement of open discussion created a positive and motivating atmosphere.

## What I Appreciate

I appreciate the diversity of resource persons, from professors in foreign universities to industry professionals and experienced extension workers. Also, the seamless coordination, time management, and interactive learning methods stood out.

## Networking

Peer interaction helped me understand different perspectives from across the country. Networking with like-minded professionals and scholars made me realize the importance of collaboration and staying connected for future projects and career growth.

## Main Takeaway

The biggest takeaway was the realization that we are the ones who make our subject valuable. This quote shared by one of the speakers struck a chord with me. Also, the need to be globally competent while working locally is something I'll carry forward.

## Action Plan

I plan to use the digital tools and communication strategies learned to strengthen my community-based outreach and extension activities. I also aim to pursue higher education or fellowships abroad, which the program has encouraged me to explore.







A journey of self-discovery, professional grooming, and limitless learning. The NYPDP was a perfect blend of knowledge, networking, and inspiration that I will cherish forever.

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