



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



NYPDP: More Than a Training, A Turning Point

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 [Arjun Mathkar](#)

When I stepped into MANAGE, Hyderabad, for the first time, I was curious to discover New competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension. As the five days of the National Young Professional Development Program (NYPDP) unfolded, it introduced me to new layers of knowledge, self-awareness and future opportunities. Each session was like opening a new window. By the end of it, I wasn't only better informed, I was more inspired and more committed to my subject.

Key Learnings

Day 1: A platform igniting fresh perspectives on competencies, career pathways, and inclusive agricultural extension

From thought-provoking sessions on New Competencies & Job Opportunities to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, the day was packed with insights, connections, and a vision for reimagining extension for an inclusive tomorrow. The day began with an energizing ice-breaking session by Dr. S. Raahalya setting the tone for meaningful engagement. Dr. Saravanan Raj's session was an eye-opener to the whole new field of career opportunities and most importantly the suitable competencies one must develop as an extension professional.

During the session of Dr. Meghajit, he shared the importance of gender equality and social inclusion. My favourite part of the session was the group activity where we were supposed to develop a learning material idea for the extension professionals. That's when it dawned on me: 'unless extension reaches all, then it hasn't succeeded.'



Day 2: Digital Competencies, Policies, Agro-Ecological Pathways & AI

This was a high-impact day filled with knowledge-sharing and forward-looking discussions at MANAGE, Hyderabad. My favourite part of the day was the powerful sessions on Ecological Agriculture and Community Sustainable Extension led by Dr. Ramanjaneyulu. I had the opportunity to personally interact with him during the session break, where we discussed potential research areas. He patiently addressed all my doubts and guided me with valuable insights, showing a clear path forward. Speaking about other sessions, Dr. Saravanan Raj started the day with a futuristic outlook on social media management & Digital Competencies.

Ms. Iniya V (PhD Scholar) presented field research on 'Agri-Tech Startups in Tamil Nadu', using tools like Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). Listening to Dr. Sethuraman and Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman discuss research models and policy engagement made me realize that effective extension doesn't end in the field, it extends into research papers, policy formulation, and influential platforms. Dr. Aditya Sinha made us aware of AI tools for academic research and their ethical use in agricultural research. Real impact happens when technology intersects with trust, and data intersects with dignity.



Day two brought us from the field to the cloud, literally! The sessions were filled with information regarding ICTs and digital skills. But it wasn't tools alone, it was about why and how we are using them, and for whom.



Day 3: Stories That Stay With You

This was the day we visited Access Livelihoods, it felt like stepping into the heart of grassroots development, where people are truly working for a social cause. Witnessing real success stories of communities collaboratively addressing real challenges was deeply inspiring. Back at MANAGE, we delved into topics such as organic farming, inclusive entrepreneurship, and agri-startups. Moving forward sometimes means reconnecting with where we come from and remembering that progress includes working for a greater social good.

Day 4: Dreams, Dilemmas & Future

Day four was a heart-to-heart with the future. Researchers from across the globe spoke candidly about their path, struggles, and progress. Dr. Parmveer Singh discussed so truthfully about doubt, mentorship, and discovery it was just what we all needed to hear.



Our tour of C-DAC introduced us to the upcoming quantum technology and made me realize it is not just sci-fi fiction it's the upcoming future that could revolutionize agriculture. AI, blockchain, and machine learning are all integrated into farm solutions. I observed how profoundly technology and tradition can go hand in hand. In the evening we explored the vibrant streets of Hyderabad City at Necklace Road and tourist attractions nearby.



Day 5: Grounded, Grateful, and Geared Up



And just like that, it was the final day, but what an empowering way to wrap up. We delved into research priorities and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E), culminating in a live Focus Group Discussion that seamlessly bridged theory and practice. For the first time, M&E wasn't just about numbers on a page, it became a powerful narrative of accountability and insight. Dr. S. Raahalya's session on research methodology was a complete paradigm shift. She challenged our assumptions and reshaped our understanding. Research, I realized, is not a checklist of tasks; it's a mindset, a deliberate, reflective approach to inquiry. Her emphasis on the value of publishing in high-impact journals further underlined the professional credibility and reach that well-conducted research can bring.

"Five days. Countless ideas. Transformed minds. NYPDP didn't just introduced me to the new age Extension, it reminded me why I chose it."

Action Plan

I'm leaving not just with notes or certificates, but with a potential research area I'm excited to explore during my M.Sc. More importantly, I leave with new eyes; a deeper, broader perspective. I carry with me new connections, built through shared purpose and vision, and a stronger, renewed belief in the path I've chosen. This journey didn't just inform me; it affirmed me.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey



If I were to summarize my NYPDP experience in one word – catalytic. Thank you, Dr. Saravanan Raj, Dr. S. Raahalya, and the entire MANAGE team for your unwavering efforts in making us feel heard, seen, and believed in. From the comfortable accommodation and nutritious food to the highly motivating and vibrant learning environment, every detail reflected your care. Special thanks for the beautiful memories captured through your lens and for supporting us during last-minute ticket challenges. Your dedication truly made this journey unforgettable.

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