



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 into the Transformative World of Extension: NYPDP

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“Celebrate small achievements in your life”

My journey at MANAGE began with fresh smiles, excitement, and a deep enthusiasm to learn, explore, and experience the evolving world of agricultural extension. The very first day was made memorable by the inspiring words of Dr. Saravanan Raj, who introduced us to his profound love for extension. He encouraged us to reflect on the various competencies required of extension professionals and assigned us a task that gave me serious insights about my future as an extension graduate. A prominent moment of Day 1 was marked by Dr. Saravanan Raj's words: *“Celebrate small achievements in your life”* and *“We must speak whenever the opportunity is given.”* These words have stayed with me ever since.

Day 2 brought to light the critical role of digital communication, agri-tech, sustainability, and policy in agricultural extension. Experts shared valuable insights into social media tools, AI in extension, modern research methods, and the importance of ecological resilience.

One of my favourite sessions was by Dr. Ramanjaneyulu, who offered a powerful and realistic perspective on the current agricultural landscape in India and the challenges faced by our farmers. His words were eye-opening and deeply moving.



On Day 3, we experienced a dynamic blend of field exposure, research insights, and cultural enrichment. A field visit to Access Livelihoods provided firsthand insights into successful FPO models and community-based enterprise development. Later, sessions on indigenous food systems, organic farming, and rural agri-innovation emphasized inclusivity, youth involvement, and gender equity. Celebrating Dr. Saravanan Raj's birthday added a warm, personal touch to the day. The evening visit to Charminar beautifully merged cultural immersion with professional learning.



Day 4 offered global perspectives and practical exposure. International scholars shared pathways for pursuing education abroad in Extension Education, while experts like Dr. Parmveer Singh and Dr. Arun Balamatti led enriching sessions on leadership and emerging trends in research. The visit to C-DAC was a highlight, showcasing cutting-edge agri-tech innovations including AI, blockchain, and data analytics. The day concluded with a cultural exploration of Hyderabad's landmarks like Hussain Sagar and a memorable dinner at Paradise.

The final day of NYPDP was a perfect blend of forward-looking learning and emotional closure. We explored new trends in extension research, learned how to design and evaluate impactful projects, and were introduced to useful tools for Monitoring & Evaluation and value chain analysis. Importantly, sessions on mental well-being, digital balance, and interdisciplinary thinking added great depth to the program. The joyful certificate ceremony at the end felt like a celebration of everything we had gained: knowledge, friendships, insights, and renewed motivation.



Training Experience

MANAGE training experience was truly informative and transformative. It changed my perspective towards the world of extension. The interactive sessions made changes in my professional career, like how to teach, how to approach, and how to engage people or students in extension activities, and the need for updating knowledge of subject experts.



Sessions about competencies and research areas enlightened my view, which is very helpful for my research career. Attending this training program made me realise the potential of agricultural extension in and around the agriculture and allied sectors. Field visits gave exposure to the real-time work of the organisations and their contribution to the welfare of farming communities. The importance of curriculum had been emphasized with clear objectives, which is essential for effective extension services. I was fortunate to have such a meaningful opportunity.

Change in Perspective



The training sessions of the NYPDP program were highly insightful, and the opportunity to interact with experts significantly deepened my understanding. This program completely transformed my perspective on extension, helping me realize its true value in fostering innovation and facilitating the transfer of technology. My appreciation for the value of extension has grown immensely.

Training Environment

From the moment I arrived, I felt an instant connection with the well-organized and welcoming atmosphere. For any learner, such an environment is a true bonus, it adds great value to the overall experience. The food was exceptional, far from ordinary. It was a perfect balance between South and North Indian cuisines, showcasing thoughtful planning. The hospitality, too, was outstanding and truly top-notch. Altogether, this training program became a remarkable and unforgettable experience in my journey.



Networking

Attending this training program gave me one of the best moments of my life, meeting a wonderful group of people whom we fondly called "Paradise." I truly met some of the best people during this journey. It was a great experience to connect with extension professionals from different states across the country.

As part of the program, we all went together to explore Hyderabad, which added more memorable moments to our learning journey. The practical sessions, along with the group activities, played a key role in helping me build strong connections and friendships in the field of extension at the national level. This experience has truly enriched both my personal and professional life.



Main Takeaway

- **Changed Perspective on Career Opportunities:** Before attending this training program, I believed that career opportunities in the field of extension were limited, mostly restricted to roles like Assistant Professor or Project Assistant in research institutes. I learned about several career options in the extension domain such as Extension Manager, Policy Specialist, and many more roles at national and international levels.
- **Importance of Updated Knowledge and Curriculum:** Just like other academic fields, it is essential for the extension education curriculum and available knowledge to be regularly updated. Staying current with the latest developments is crucial for preparing students and professionals for real-world challenges.
- **Effectiveness of Policy Making:** I realized that effective policy-making and well-designed schemes are essential for improving the economic life of farmers.
- **Personality Development:** Each session of the training program had a strong impact on my personality. It taught me how to present extension as an engaging subject, how to connect with students or target audiences creatively, and how to overcome stage fear. I also learned to make the best use of every opportunity to speak and share, shaping myself into a more confident and effective educator.

Action Plan

The NYPD program provided me with valuable insights that I will meaningfully apply in both my research and teaching career. Interactions with experts were particularly impactful, as they clarified many doubts I previously had about the extension sector. I gained a deeper understanding of the importance for extension personnel to remain updated with emerging knowledge and practices. The program also highlighted the need for extension agents to approach their work with empathy by understanding farmers' real-life situations and addressing their specific needs. Additionally, the exposure I received has helped me gain clarity and confidence in planning my career abroad. One of the most practical takeaways was the session on the use of AI tools in article writing, which I intend to incorporate into my future academic work. Overall, this experience has helped shape me into a more focused, need-based extension professional.



My journey in the MANAGE NYPDP program was truly memorable and made a significant impact on my career. The people I met, the sessions I experienced, and the ideas that evolved within me gave me confidence about my journey in this field of extension.

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