



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Empowering Journeys: My Learning Experience at NYPDP, MANAGE

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Each day brought new dimensions to our understanding:

Day 1: Setting the Foundation – Opportunities & Time Management

- Dr. Saravanan Raj's inspiring journey highlighted the importance of academic focus, perseverance, and professional networking.
- We explored career opportunities across agricultural disciplines, identified the competencies required for different roles, and discussed online/certificate courses for skill development.
- Group activities helped us reflect on time usage (especially digital distractions) and manage it more effectively. We also identified specialization areas and emerging career opportunities in agricultural extension.

Day 2: Research Thinking, New Capacities & Social Network Analysis

- Dr. Saravanan Raj's session guided us in selecting meaningful research topics and understand what drives strong academic inquiries.
- Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman expanded our understanding of extension beyond its traditional scope and recommended learning platforms such as Coursera, FutureLearn, EdX, J-PAL, IGNOU, AgMOOC, and the GFRAS-NELK toolkit.
- Dr. Sreeram Vishnu introduced key theories; Strength of Weak Ties (Granovetter), Structural Hole Theory (Ronald Burt), Small-World Network (Watts & Strogatz), Scale-Free Networks (Barabási), and Eigenvector Centrality.
- Group activity on Social Network Analysis made these theories relatable by applying them to our own research ideas.

Day 3: Field Learning – Innovation, Measurement, and ICT

- Access Livelihoods Field Visit: We learned about their women-led enterprises, NITI Aayog recognition, and innovative livelihood models.
- Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar introduced research goals and the C-OAR-SE framework for structured scale development. Though challenging, it was insightful, especially since methodology isn't part of my core coursework.
- The C-DAC session offered fascinating insights into AI, Blockchain, Machine Learning, and Big Data applications in agriculture. It sparked my interest in applying AI tools in fisheries research and services.



Day 4: Global Outlook, Entrepreneurship & Policy Engagement

- Dr. Vikram Koundinya, Ms. Sravani Reddy, and Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi shared guidance on graduate studies and global careers, helping us understand how to prepare for international opportunities.
- Dr. Parmveer Singh motivated us to overcome procrastination using tools like the Pomodoro Technique and emphasized the need to build resilience.
- Dr. Mahesh Chander explained the Theory of Change, Learning Labs, and the GATI Project, along with his experiences in organic farming and gender-inclusive research.
- Dr. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee delivered a dynamic, engaging session on policy engagement using QR code polls, making concepts like impact pathways and policy integration easy to grasp.



Day 5: Research Tools, M&E, and Incubation Models

- Dr. S. Raahalya introduced Bibliometric Analysis and AI-powered research tools for streamlining literature reviews and enhancing research visibility and publication success.
- Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar's session on Monitoring & Evaluation emphasized the Logical Framework Approach, Bennett's Hierarchical Model, input and result evaluations, and included a real-life simulation through a Focus Group Discussion.
- Our visit to the MANAGE Agribusiness Incubation Centre offered real-world insights into nurturing startups, innovation hubs, and empowering agri-entrepreneurs.

Training Experience

This five-day training experience was truly transformative. It offered a perfect blend of theory, practical exposure, and interaction with experts in agricultural extension. Each day introduced new dimensions, from research skill development, social network analysis, and AI in agriculture, to field visits and real-time policy engagement. The sessions were thought-provoking, well-structured, and highly relevant to both academic and professional growth. I especially appreciated the diverse learning methodologies, interactive polls, group discussions, time management exercises, and hands-on exposure. Overall, the training boosted my confidence, expanded my understanding of career opportunities, and inspired me to explore new frontiers in my field.

Change in Perspective

Absolutely. I now see agricultural extension as a dynamic, interdisciplinary field that integrates communication, behavioural sciences, policy understanding, innovation, and research to drive rural development. It is a global subject, not limited to traditional rural development paradigms.



Training Environment

The environment at MANAGE was both intellectually stimulating and welcoming. The hospitality, logistics, and food arrangements were excellent. The learning atmosphere was inclusive, allowing us to express ideas freely and learn from both faculty and peers.

What I appreciated most about the training program was the diversity of sessions, the rich expertise of the resource persons, and the clear vision behind every component. Most importantly, Dr. Saravanan Raj's vision to groom young professionals was deeply inspiring. His commitment to building capacities and creating future-ready extensionists was evident in every aspect of the program. It felt like more than just a training, it was a transformational experience.

Networking

During the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP), I realized the importance of peer interactions and networking for both academic and personal growth. Although I didn't get to interact with everyone, I learned that, as an extension student, networking is key. I discovered that being more outgoing and asking questions helps me connect better with others. I also realized that I am like a brand, I need to express myself more and make my presence known. This experience taught me that stepping out of my comfort zone and engaging more with others will help me build stronger connections and grow professionally.



Main Takeaway

One of my most significant takeaways from the training was the realization that I need to constantly push myself to improve. While the work I am currently doing is not fulfilling, I've come to recognize that I am capable of more. The program made me reflect on the importance of being in a productive environment, one that fosters growth, innovation, and continuous learning. I now feel a strong urge to seek opportunities that will allow me to develop further and bring more value to my field. I also understand the importance of having a good mentor, and I believe that through hard work, I can earn mentorship in reputed institutions.



Action Plan

I plan to apply the knowledge gained from this program by using Focus Group Discussions for better data collection and writing blogs to communicate my findings effectively. I also aim to enhance my analytical and communication skills through online courses, focusing on social network analysis, bibliometric analysis, and artificial intelligence to stay updated with emerging technologies.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

An unforgettable journey of learning, connecting, and growing as a young extension professional. These five days at MANAGE planted seeds of clarity, inspiration, and purpose that I will nurture throughout my career.

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