



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



From Doubts to Dreams: My NYPDP Agri-Extension Journey

Ishika Gautam,

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE,
Hyderabad during March 24-28, 2025.

 [ishika-gautam](#)

NYPDP was not just a training program, it was an enriching journey that redefined the way I perceive Agricultural Extension. These five days were nothing short of transformative. From the very first moment on the serene MANAGE campus, surrounded by greenery, a peaceful ambiance, and welcoming facilities, I knew this was going to be something special.

Each day lit a new spark. Every session opened doors to ideas, competencies, and career pathways I never knew existed within my own discipline. Often, we found ourselves whispering, “*This too is a part of Extension?*”, a mix of surprise and realization that our field is far more vast and vibrant than we thought.

Key Learnings

Day 1 – Cultural Harmony in Action

Working on activities with participants from across India, even before formal introductions, revealed a beautiful lesson, despite linguistic and cultural differences, we united seamlessly to achieve a common goal. In Agricultural Extension, this cultural sensitivity and teamwork are not just skills, they are essential competencies for real-world impact.

Day 2 – Research as a Catalyst for Policy Change

The insightful sessions taught us how to blend our passion with emerging research themes. More importantly, we learned that our research has the power to influence policy, Yes! We can be changemakers. This shifted my outlook: from merely studying problems to actively designing solutions for society.



Day 3 – Seeing is Believing

The field visit brought theory to life. Meeting changemakers who created real impact in their communities helped us realize, “*we too can.*” What we often lack is exposure and that initial push. This program provided both, nurturing our belief in ourselves.

Day 4 – Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Until now, many of us felt restricted by financial limitations, family norms, or social expectations. But interacting with those who overcame these very hurdles proved that such barriers are not permanent. They are challenges meant to be faced, not feared. *“Opportunities are plenty, we just need to explore, act, and believe.”*



Day 5 – Celebrate Your Subject



On the final day, Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), MANAGE, said something that deeply resonated with all of us: *“This program wasn't training. It was a celebration week of your subject.”*

And indeed, it was. For the first time, many of us felt proud, confident, and emotionally connected to AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION, a subject often undervalued by others, and sometimes even by ourselves, which is now our source of inspiration and purpose.

Change in Perspective

Before this training, I too had doubts. I had heard people in agricultural academia belittle our field and somewhere, I started believing them. But NYPDP changed that. It helped me see the relevance, dynamism, and endless possibilities in Agricultural Extension. From international careers, entrepreneurship, policy advocacy, and development consultancy to grassroots innovation, our subject has no boundaries.

What I Appreciate

To those who will attend NYPDP in the future, come with an open heart. Be ready to unlearn and relearn. This program is not just about sessions and lectures. It's about discovering your own voice, meeting inspiring people, and walking away with a renewed sense of purpose. You won't just learn, you'll evolve.





I am now committed to using the knowledge and skills gained here in my research, outreach, and future career. I want to uplift others, especially young minds, and help them see that Agricultural Extension is not just important, it's essential for meaningful change. I want to work toward policy impact, community empowerment, and restoring the respect our field deserves.

At last I want to conclude *"Extension is not a subject, it's a spirit - of service, of impact, and of transformation"*.

Ms. Ishika Gautam

M.Sc. Agricultural Extension Education
Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication
Naini Agriculture Institute
Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and
Sciences
Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
e-mail: ishikavns14@gmail.com

MANAGE - Center for Agricultural Extension Innovations, Reforms and Agripreneurship (MANAGE- CAEIRA)
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA
<https://www.manage.gov.in/caeira/caeira.asp>



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA



MANAGE-CAEIRA