



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Training that leads to complete transformation and broaden the perspective of skills

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAJUVAS), Bikaner during February 10-14, 2025.

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- The training program began with a brief interactive session with Dr. Saravanan Raj on the state and trends in the field of Agricultural Extension, followed by an icebreaker that included team-building exercises.
- After a discussion on clients' livelihood competencies in light of current demands and available support, the program moved on to grassroots-level case examples. Notable sessions included research on gender in agriculture by Dr. Meghajit Sharma Shijagurumayum and network analysis in behavioral science by Dr. Sreeram Vishnu.
- Topics covered included career opportunities in the US, policy engagement pathways, and brainstorming sessions that encouraged idea generation and exploration.
- Participants gained deep insights into research trends and received hands-on experience with biometric analysis. This was followed by a session on monitoring and evaluation in field-level extension, detailing the steps involved in the process. Trainees later participated in a focus group discussion (FGD) on general topics, which made the session interactive and engaging. The day concluded with an enriching visit to National Research Centre on Camel (NRCC).
- The final sessions covered entrepreneurship, gender equality, and organic farming extension, incorporating both global and national perspectives. The role of extension in climate change adaptation was also explored.

Training Experience



The entire training program was highly educational and eye-opening, filled with a wealth of information and real-world experience shared by expert resource persons and fellow trainees. Over a few intensive days, we gained in-depth understanding of practical concerns, from policy engagement and gender roles in agriculture to behavioural research and livelihood competencies at the grassroots level.

Emerging topics like biometric analysis, field-level monitoring and evaluation, entrepreneurship, organic farming, and the role of extension in addressing climate change were key highlights. Interactive exercises such as focus groups and a field trip to NRCC further enhanced our practical knowledge. The training expanded our academic and professional horizons, while emphasizing the vital connection between research and policy. It equipped us to contribute meaningfully to policy formulation, implementation, and advocacy. The blend of expert insights, shared experiences, and hands-on engagement made it a true milestone in the journey of lifelong learning.

Change in Perspective

The training significantly shifted my perception of Agricultural Extension, as both a subject and a profession by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. Participants gained practical experience in data handling and were introduced to various approaches to data analysis. Sessions emphasized how multidisciplinary collaboration can lead to impactful outcomes, particularly in project framing and policy development.

I developed a greater appreciation for the role of data and analysis in evidence-based policymaking. Furthermore, learning about global trends and international career opportunities opened new avenues for academic and professional growth in the field of Extension.



Training Environment

The training atmosphere was highly motivating and positive, fostering focused learning and meaningful interactions. Each day began with punctuality, with sessions starting right on time, a reflection of the professionalism of the organizing team. Expert-led sessions were engaging, participatory, and often interactive, allowing trainees to share insights and experiences, making the learning process inclusive and dynamic.

Beyond academics, the beautifully maintained MANAGE campus enhanced the experience. From well-organized accommodations to nutritious meals, every aspect was managed efficiently. The smooth and thoughtful execution of the training reflected the dedication of the organizers.

What I Appreciate

One of the most admirable aspects of the training was its well-structured and seamlessly executed design. As participants, especially those from outside the host institutions, we encountered no difficulties, whether professional, personal, or logistical. The entire experience was made smooth and enriching by the proactive and thoughtful support of the organizing team. Dr. Maina and Dr. Sunil were exceptionally supportive, approachable, and kind, always attentive to participants' needs. It was truly a wonderful experience to attend this training under the guidance of highly qualified experts and such caring hosts.

Networking

Connecting with like-minded individuals from across the country was one of the most enriching aspects of the program. This training provided a unique platform to exchange perspectives on various issues, which enhanced our thinking in more inclusive and comprehensive way. The diversity in academic and regional backgrounds led to deeper, more meaningful discussions. Fellow participants were friendly, cooperative, and open to sharing their experiences and knowledge.



This peer-to-peer exchange created a supportive, intellectually stimulating environment that will have a lasting impact on our personal and professional growth.

Action Plan



Moving forward, I intend to apply the knowledge, insights, and positive mindset developed during this training in my research and professional endeavours. The practical exposure, enhanced policy understanding, and data-driven approaches I gained here will inform the effective planning and implementation of development initiatives. I aim to translate this training into real-world applications, ensuring my contributions are both impactful and grounded in theory and practice.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The MANAGE NYPDP journey was incredibly interactive, motivating, and inspiring. Over five days, we engaged with knowledgeable experts who shared valuable insights and practical wisdom. The sessions were thought-provoking and enriching, fostering a deeper understanding of Agricultural Extension while encouraging collaboration, innovation, and professional growth among participants.

Lastly, I am truly grateful to MANAGE and RAJUVAS, CVAS, Bikaner, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful and enriching training program.

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