





National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP) on New Competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

June 01-05, 2026

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) Hyderabad

Program Objectives

-  To explore the scope and untapped global opportunities in agricultural extension
-  To identify possible job opportunities, essential skills and ways to develop better competencies

DAY 1: June 01, 2026

Session I: Introduction to the Training Program, New Competencies and Job Opportunities for Agricultural Extension

This opening session challenges scholars to re-examine their professional identity in the context of a rapidly transforming agricultural landscape. Through structured networking and the Extension Identity Card Exchange, participants connect across institutions and map the evolving competency architecture for extension professionals. By the close, every participant will have articulated their own extension identity and positioned themselves within the broader ecosystem.

Duration	Particulars	Speaker/Activities
09.00-09.15	MANAGE at a Glance: Vision, Legacy and Impact	Team MANAGE
09.15-09.30	Journey with NYPDP: A Launchpad for Next-Gen Extension Professionals	Team MANAGE
09.30-10.00	Speed Networking: Meet Your Tribe	
10.00-11.00	Our Professional Identity	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE
11.00-11.30	Group Photo, Networking & High Tea	
11.30-12.30	New Competencies and Job Opportunities for Agricultural Extension	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE
12.30-13.00	Human Career Mapping	Group Exercise
13.00-14.00	Lunch Break	
14.00-15.00	Professional Specialisation and Excellence in Agricultural Extension	Group Participation
15.00-15.30	DG Inaugural Remarks	Shri. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, IAS Director General MANAGE

15.30-16.00	Tea Break	
16.00-17.30	Presentation by the participants	Continuing exercise
17.30-18.00	NYPDP Alumni Voices	Mr. Sunnyrudh Singh Visiting Research Scholar Fresno State University
DAY 2: June 02, 2026		
Session II: Career Opportunities in Extension Education, ICTs & AI Tools for Agricultural Extension		
This session equips scholars with the digital fluency and research rigour demanded by contemporary extension practice. Participants explore graduate-level research approaches from U.S. Land-Grant Universities, engage in a live Innovation Poster Walk to exchange ideas with peers, and get hands-on with must-know AI tools applied to their own research questions.		
08.00-08.10	My Neighbour's Insight – Recap Session	Team MANAGE
08.10-09.30	How to Conduct Graduate-Level Research in Agricultural Extension Education? - Experiences from U.S. Land-Grant Universities	Dr. Vikram Koundiya, Associate Professor of Extension & Evaluation Specialist University of California, Davis & Ms. Sravani Reddy Post Doctoral Research Associate The University of Georgia, USA & Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi Ph.D Scholar Texas A&M University, USA
09.30-10.30	Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE
10.30-11.00	Extension Marketplace	Participants
11.00-11.30	Tea Break	
11.30-13.00	Must-Know AI Tools for Academic Researchers	Dr. Aditya Sinha Associate Professor Cum Senior Scientist Bihar Agricultural University
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00- 15.00	Future-Proofing Your Career in Agricultural Extension	Dr. Raahalya S Innovation Scaling Specialist
15.00-15.30	“Ask Me Anything” with interns	MANAGE Interns
15.30-16.00	Tea Break	
16.00-17.30	ICTs & Digital Competencies for Agricultural Extension: Navigating New Frontiers	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE
17.30-18.00	NYPDP Alumni Voices	Ms. Juno Ashok PG student, TNAU & Mr. Revananath Pratap Kokate PG student, VNMKV
18.00-20.00	Pre-Dinner Session: To Begin Our Professional Journey – Setting the Context for (Ex) ordinary Story	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE

DAY 3: June 03, 2026**Session III: Extension for Organic Farming, Gender Equality, Entrepreneurship and Visit to C-DAC**

This session places equity and entrepreneurship at the centre of extension practice, examining gender-responsive approaches and the growing momentum behind organic farming. The afternoon visit to C-DAC, Hyderabad opens a window into AI, blockchain, and machine learning applications being built for real-world agricultural use.

09.00-09.30	Hot Seat Harvest – Recap Session	Team MANAGE
09.30-11.00	Extension for Entrepreneurship and Gender Equality	Dr. Mahesh Chander Principal Scientist, IVRI
11.00-11.30	Tea Break	
11.30-13.00	Extension for Organic Farming	Dr. Mahesh Chander Principal Scientist, IVRI
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-17.00	Visit to Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) The Centre is a Knowledge Centre with the components of Knowledge Creation, Knowledge Dissemination, and Knowledge Application to grow in the areas of Research & Development, Training, Services, Outreach, and Business, respectively. C-DAC is also actively contributing through ICT for social development initiatives, particularly in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain technology, Machine Learning (ML), and Big Data in Agriculture. Participants can learn about various software applications developed specifically for agricultural purposes	C-DAC, Hyderabad
17.00-20.00	Exploring Hyderabad	

DAY 4: June 04, 2026**Session IV: Agri-Innovation through Incubation and Advanced Methods in Agricultural Extension Research**

This session explores how incubation centres, startups, and technology transfer mechanisms are democratising agricultural innovation and creating new entrepreneurial pathways. Participants hear directly from MANAGE interns about real career journeys through an open Ask Me Anything exchange. The afternoon builds advanced research competencies, including human decision modelling, equipping doctoral scholars with tools for rigorous, impactful extension research. The day closes with a Research Ethics Café: an dinner-table conversation on the ethical dimensions of participant research.

09.00-09.30	Headline News – Recap Session	Team MANAGE
09.30-09.35	Agri-innovation is real or fictional (live Slido poll)	Dr. Saravanan Raj Director (Agricultural Extension) MANAGE
09.35-11.00	Democratising Innovation and Technology Transfer: Agri-Innovation through Incubation and Startups	
11.00-11.30	Tea break	
11.30-13.00	Policy Engagement for Agricultural Extension	Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman Director, CRISP
13.00-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-15.30	Advances in Agricultural Extension Research	Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI

15.30-16.00	Tea break	
16.00-17.30	Human Decision Modelling in Extension Research	Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar Principal Scientist, ICAR-CTCRI
17.30-18.00	NYPDP Alumni Voices	Mohamed Aseemudheen, M. Ph. D Scholar, TNAU
19.00-20.00	Pre-Dinner Session- Research Ethics Cafe	Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar Professor School of Extension and Development Studies IGNOU, New Delhi

DAY 5: June 05, 2026

Session V: Monitoring & Evaluation and Focus Group Discussion Techniques for Extension Professionals

This closing session builds practical M&E competency, helping scholars design evaluation frameworks, and communicate results to diverse stakeholders. The hands-on FGD demonstration goes a step further participants practice facilitation themselves in small groups before a collective debrief. The afternoon transitions into the programme's culminating experience: Commitment Cards, and the Future of Extension Wall. Participants leave with a personal action plan and a curated digital resource toolkit to carry their learning forward.

09.00-09.30	One Word, One Reason-Recap Session	Team MANAGE
09.30-11.00	Monitoring & Evaluation: Competencies for Extension Professionals	Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar Professor School of Extension and Development Studies IGNOU, New Delhi
11.00-11.30	Tea Break	
11.30 -13.00	Methods to Conduct Focus Group Discussion – Demonstration	Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar Professor School of Extension and Development Studies IGNOU, New Delhi
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break	
14.00 -14.30	Commitment Cards (Head, Heart, Hands)	Participants
14.30- 15.30	Future Extension Wall	Participants and Team MANAGE
15.30 -16.00	Tea break	
16.00 -18.00	Take Home Message and Action Plan	Participants and Team MANAGE

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