



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Mr. Kapil Maran

Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad from June 01 to 05, 2026.



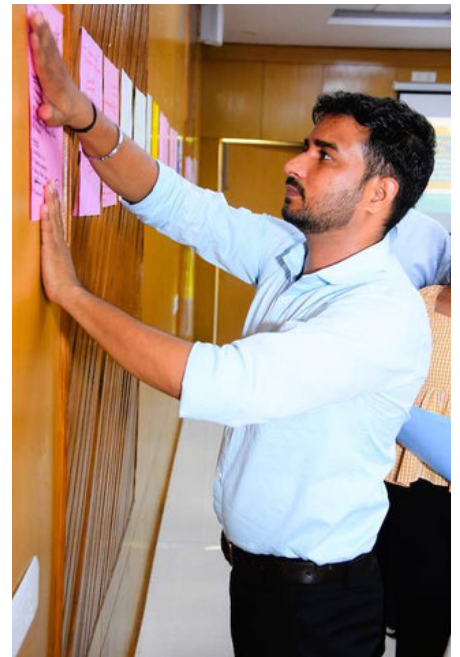
Kapil Maran

Introduction

Participation in the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) at MANAGE, Hyderabad, was a valuable learning experience. The five-day programme provided exposure to emerging perspectives in agricultural extension, research, innovation, policy engagement, and professional development. Through expert interactions, practical activities, and field learning, the programme enhanced my knowledge, broadened my outlook, and strengthened my commitment to contributing effectively to the agricultural sector.

Day 1

The inaugural day of the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) was an enriching and inspiring experience that laid a strong foundation for the learning journey ahead. The sessions encouraged self-reflection on professional identity, competencies, career aspirations and the evolving role of agricultural extension professionals. Through insightful lectures, interactive activities and discussions with peers, I gained valuable perspectives on personal growth, research priorities and career specialization. The inspiring messages from MANAGE leadership and alumni further motivated me to take ownership of my professional development and strive for excellence in my field.

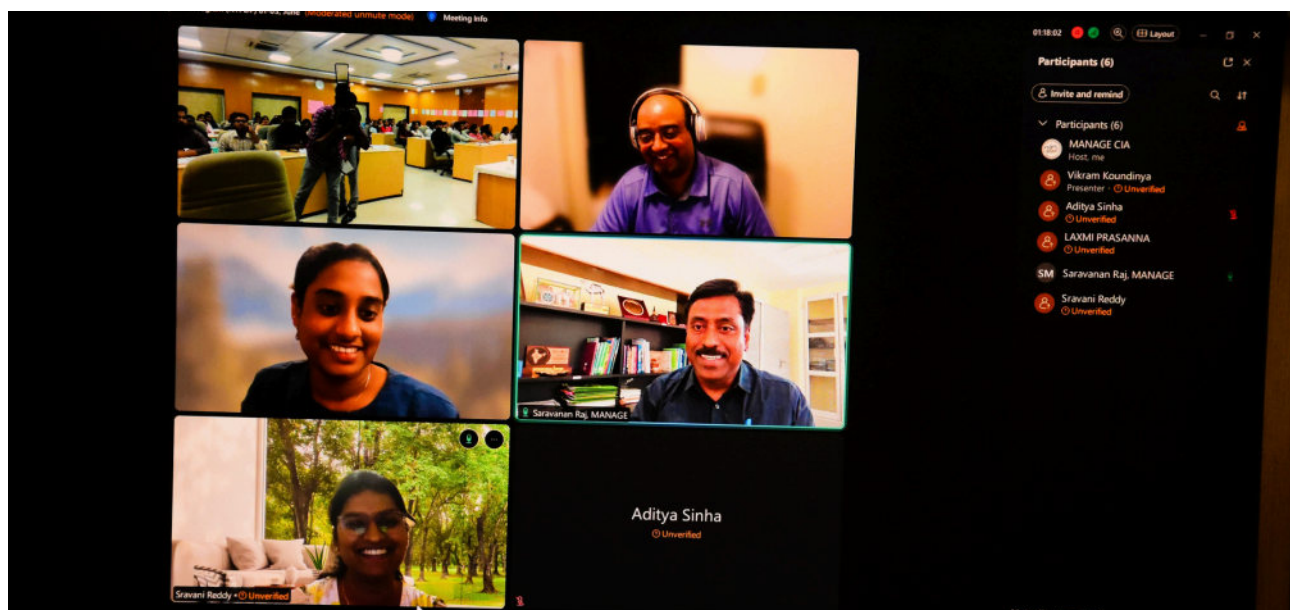


Key Learnings:

1. Understanding and strengthening professional identity.
2. Assessing existing competencies and identifying future learning needs.
3. Exploring emerging research priorities in agricultural extension.
4. Understanding career pathways and professional specialization.
5. Appreciating the importance of networking and collaborative learning.
6. Developing a growth mindset and commitment to lifelong learning.

Day 2

The second day of NYPDP 2026 was highly informative and future-oriented, focusing on research excellence, emerging technologies, innovation and career development in agricultural extension. Interactions with distinguished scholars from leading international universities provided valuable insights into academic research, global collaborations, publication strategies and higher education opportunities. Sessions on research priorities and AI tools for academic researchers enhanced our understanding of conducting impactful, evidence-based research while responsibly integrating emerging technologies into scholarly work.



Discussions on career development, internships, fellowships and professional opportunities encouraged participants to explore diverse pathways for growth and leadership. The day concluded with an inspiring reflection on transforming ordinary experiences into extraordinary achievements, motivating us to pursue purposeful careers and meaningful contributions to agricultural development.

Key Learnings:

- 1.Importance of designing impactful, interdisciplinary and socially relevant research.
- 2.Understanding international research opportunities, collaborations and publication strategies.
- 3.Exploring AI tools for literature review, academic writing, research evaluation and presentations.

4. Recognizing the importance of academic integrity while using AI-assisted technologies.
5. Gaining awareness of internships, fellowships, scholarships and global career opportunities in agricultural extension.

Day 3

The third day of NYPDP 2026 was engaging and insightful, focusing on sustainable agricultural development, entrepreneurship, gender equality and livelihood promotion. The day began with an interactive recap activity that reinforced previous learnings through teamwork and active participation. An enlightening session on organic farming, entrepreneurship and gender-inclusive development highlighted the role of extension professionals in promoting sustainable and equitable agricultural systems.

The visit to Access Livelihoods provided practical exposure to successful livelihood promotion models and demonstrated how innovation, collaboration and community engagement can create sustainable economic opportunities in rural areas. Overall, the day strengthened our understanding of inclusive development and inspired us to contribute towards building resilient and sustainable rural communities.

Key Learnings:

1. Understanding the role of extension in promoting organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
2. Recognizing entrepreneurship as a pathway for enhancing rural livelihoods and economic development.
3. Appreciating the importance of gender equality and inclusion in agricultural development programmes.



4. Learning how community-based approaches can strengthen livelihood ecosystems and rural enterprises.
5. Understanding the value of collaboration, innovation and stakeholder engagement in development initiatives.

Day 4

The fourth day of NYPDP 2026 was intellectually stimulating and focused on innovation, policy engagement, research advancement and ethical practices in agricultural extension. The sessions encouraged participants to reflect on their learning journey and identify practical actions for personal and professional growth. Discussions on agri-innovation, incubation and technology transfer highlighted the evolving role of farmers as innovators and active partners in the innovation ecosystem. The sessions on policy engagement and advances in extension research provided valuable insights into evidence based decision making, innovation scaling and the challenges of translating research into practice.

The day concluded with a highly engaging Research Ethics Cafe, where participants experienced the ethical review process through a mock exercise, strengthening their understanding of research integrity and responsible conduct. The day broadened my perspective on innovation, policy, research ethics and the future of agricultural extension.

Key Learnings:

1. Understanding the transition from technology transfer to collaborative and inclusive innovation systems.
2. Appreciating the role of incubation, startups and agri-innovation in agricultural transformation.
3. Gaining insights into agricultural policy formulation, implementation and stakeholder engagement.
4. Learning about innovation scaling and human decision modelling in extension research.
5. Recognizing the importance of research ethics, integrity and responsible conduct in scientific investigations.
6. Understanding how small decisions can significantly influence the quality, credibility and impact of research outcomes..

Day 5

The final day of NYPDP 2026 was a reflective and action-oriented learning experience that emphasized the importance of monitoring, evaluation, participatory research and personal commitment to professional growth. Insightful sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) techniques enhanced my understanding of assessing programme effectiveness, measuring outcomes and engaging stakeholders in the research and extension process. Interactive activities encouraged participants to translate their learning into actionable commitments and envision the future of agricultural extension.

The valedictory session provided an opportunity to reflect on the transformative five-day journey, share experiences and celebrate the meaningful relationships and knowledge gained throughout the programme. Receiving the certificate and a commemorative group photograph made the occasion especially memorable, marking the successful completion of an enriching and inspiring learning experience at MANAGE.

Key Learnings:

1. Understanding the principles and applications of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in extension programmes.
2. Learning how to design evaluation frameworks and measure programme outcomes effectively.
3. Gaining practical exposure to planning, moderating, and analysing Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).
4. Recognizing the value of participatory approaches in research, learning, and extension.
5. Transforming learning into action through personal and professional commitment planning.
6. Developing a clear action plan for applying the knowledge, skills and competencies gained during the programme.

Five-Day Experience

The five-day National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) at MANAGE was an exceptionally enriching and transformative learning experience that broadened my professional understanding and strengthened my personal aspirations. The programme offered a unique blend of expert lectures, interactive activities, group discussions, practical exercises and field exposure that collectively enhanced my knowledge of agricultural extension and rural development.

Sessions on professional identity, research priorities, artificial intelligence tools, innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, policy engagement, research ethics, monitoring & evaluation and focus group discussions provided both theoretical insights and practical applications. Interactions with distinguished academicians, researchers, development practitioners and fellow participants from diverse backgrounds created valuable opportunities for learning and networking.

The visit to Access Livelihoods further deepened my understanding of sustainable livelihood promotion and community based development. Each day encouraged reflection, critical thinking and active participation, making the learning process highly engaging. Overall, the programme not only enhanced my professional competencies but also inspired me to envision a more impactful role as an agricultural extension professional committed to innovation, inclusiveness, and societal development.

Change in Perspective

NYPDP brought a significant shift in my perspective towards agricultural extension, research and professional development. Before attending the programme, I primarily viewed extension as a process of transferring technologies and information to farming communities. However, the sessions conducted during the programme helped me understand that extension is much broader and more dynamic. It involves facilitating innovation, strengthening policy engagement, promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging stakeholder participation and creating sustainable solutions for complex agricultural challenges.



The discussions on professional identity, innovation ecosystems, research ethics and leadership highlighted the importance of adaptability, continuous learning and evidence based decision-making. I realized that meaningful development requires collaboration across disciplines and active engagement with communities rather than relying solely on conventional approaches.

The programme also encouraged me to think globally while acting locally, recognizing the value of innovation, inclusiveness and ethical responsibility in professional practice. This change in perspective has motivated me to become a more proactive, reflective and impact-oriented professional capable of contributing effectively to agricultural and rural transformation.

Atmosphere and Environment of MANAGE

The atmosphere and environment at MANAGE played a crucial role in making the learning experience memorable and productive. From the very first day, the institution fostered a sense of belonging, professionalism and enthusiasm among participants. The well-maintained campus, excellent learning facilities and thoughtfully organized programme schedule created an ideal setting for academic and professional growth. Every session was designed to encourage active participation, critical reflection and meaningful interaction between participants and resource persons. The faculty members and programme coordinators were highly approachable and supportive, creating a learner friendly environment where questions, discussions and diverse viewpoints were welcomed.

The collaborative culture among participants further enriched the experience by promoting peer learning and knowledge sharing. The atmosphere was not limited to classroom learning; it extended to informal discussions, networking opportunities, and group activities that strengthened professional relationships. Overall, MANAGE provided an inspiring environment that reflected excellence, innovation and commitment to capacity building, making the programme both intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding.

What I Appreciate

The aspect I appreciate most about NYPDP is its holistic and participant centred approach to professional development. The programme was carefully designed to balance theoretical learning with practical exposure, ensuring that every session had relevance to real world challenges and opportunities. I particularly appreciated the accessibility and dedication of the resource persons, who not only shared their expertise but also encouraged participants to think critically and explore new possibilities. The experiential learning activities, case discussions, field visit and interactive exercises transformed the programme from a conventional training event into a highly engaging learning journey. Another noteworthy aspect was the opportunity to interact with talented young professionals from different institutions and regions, which broadened my understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences.

The meticulous planning, hospitality and continuous support provided by the MANAGE team reflected their commitment to participant learning and well-being. These elements collectively created an environment that was inspiring, motivating and conducive to both professional and personal growth.



Most Significant Takeaway

The most significant takeaway from NYPDP is the realization that meaningful leadership and impact begin with individual mindset, vision and action. Throughout the programme, I learned that professional success is not solely determined by institutional systems or available resources but by one's willingness to learn continuously, adapt to change and take responsibility for creating positive outcomes. The sessions reinforced the importance of integrating innovation, ethical practices, stakeholder engagement and evidence-based approaches into professional work.

The practical exposure to research ethics, policy engagement, innovation ecosystems and participatory methods highlighted how small decisions and actions can significantly influence the quality and impact of development initiatives. Equally important was the understanding that collaboration and networking are essential for addressing complex agricultural and societal challenges. This takeaway has inspired me to become a more reflective practitioner, a lifelong learner and a proactive contributor to agricultural extension and rural development. The programme strengthened my confidence to pursue meaningful professional goals with purpose and commitment.



Action Plan

The knowledge, insights and experiences gained through NYPDP have motivated me to develop a clear action plan for my academic and professional journey. I intend to strengthen my research competencies by adopting innovative and interdisciplinary approaches that address contemporary challenges in agricultural extension and rural development. I will actively apply the concepts of monitoring and evaluation, participatory research, stakeholder engagement and ethical decision-making in my future work.

The programme also encouraged me to utilize appropriate digital and artificial intelligence tools responsibly to improve research efficiency, communication, and knowledge dissemination.

I plan to expand my professional network, seek collaborative opportunities, and remain engaged with emerging developments in extension education and innovation systems. Furthermore, I aim to contribute to initiatives that promote farmer empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurship and inclusive development. By translating the learning from NYPDP into practical actions, I hope to enhance my effectiveness as an agricultural extension professional and contribute meaningfully to the transformation of agricultural and rural communities.



Sense of Gratitude

I conclude this enriching learning journey with a deep sense of gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the National Young Professionals Development Programme. I am sincerely thankful to Dr. Saravanan Raj, Director, MANAGE and Dr. Raahalya S., for their inspiring guidance, unwavering support, and commitment to creating a meaningful learning experience. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, DG, MANAGE, Prof. P. V. K. Sasidhar, Dr. Vikram Koundinya, Dr. Sravani Reddy Pasula, Ms. Laxmi Prasanna Kandi, Dr. Aditya Sinha, Dr. Mahesh Chandra, Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V., Dr. Sethuraman Shivakumar, and Mr. Krishnagopal G. V. for generously sharing their knowledge, expertise and valuable experiences.



Their insightful sessions significantly enhanced my understanding of agricultural extension, research, innovation, policy engagement and professional development. I am equally grateful to the entire MANAGE team for their meticulous planning, warm hospitality and seamless execution of the programme. Finally, I appreciate my fellow participants for their enthusiasm, collaboration and exchange of ideas, which made this journey intellectually stimulating, professionally rewarding and personally memorable.



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