



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



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



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Introduction

NYPDP was a once in a life time experience. The five days were enriching in relevant content and reconnecting with our purpose in agricultural extension. For a profession to be successful in its true sense, it's important that the professional himself knows the 'all-about' section first. And this course exactly did that. The current standing and importance of Extension Education has opened many opportunities to tap into. What seems hidden in plain sight was brought to light to us and how we can achieve them while studying our disciplines was taught. Expanding one's horizon with not only knowledge but also our competency, hands-on exercises and building networks were some of the highlights of the programme.

The environment we were provided - both during and off-training set a benchmark on how it ought to be executed for creating maximum impact, something that is an attribute of every extension professional.

Key Learnings:

Day 1

Who we are as extension professionals and where do our capabilities and role lie? We were introduced to the different areas where the job opportunities lie, including but not limited to basics. The new opportunities included prospects like - Policy Engagement, Monitoring and Evaluation, Data Analysts, Gender Consultants and many many more. It didnt end there, we were also made known what are the competencies that we have to build within ourselves as professionals and how exactly do we do that, who hires us, what major organizations are involved and how we incorporate ourselves there. A major chunk of the NYPDP programme also included group exercises making it a great hub for networking with fellow trainees from all over India.

Day 2

Professors, Research Fellows from foreign universities who took this course and now landed major opportunities in many universities of USA also shared their outlook on topics important for us like how to conduct research, what AI tools should be integrated, role of ICT and so much more.

As a part of an exercise Students were encouraged to pick an area where they have their interests in eg- academia, International Organizations, NGOs, Govt, etc. This led to mingling of common minded people and the exercise involved to think more on the opportunities it provided, what real life impact it has made and many more. It was fun and educational.

Day 3

Dr Mahesh Chander, Principal Scientist, IVRI gave a very insightful presentation on entrepreneurship in extension, what prospects it holds and how its functioning in real time along with Organic farming and the ground level changes and scenarios he has faced and dealt with that was not only limited to India. We also had a visit to Access Livelihoods - that works with marginalised women to make them support themselves by upskilling them and introducing their products in the market chain. Their journey and the stories of many women was surely inspirational and commendable.

Day 4

The lecture by Dr Sarvanan Raj, emphasized on agri-innovation and agri-incubation centres and their working and Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman's presentation focused on the Policy Engagement domain and he also highlighted the related platforms associated with it, and how to be involved with it, participate and share our contributions.

The highly engaging exercise conducted by Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar that involved certain scenarios that mimics real world problems including the administration, farmers, environment etc and we as team of students had to propose solutions by picking out best results from the selected items, something that actually happens in the process of a finding a real time solution. It has a thought-provoking exercise and a perfect example of hands-on exercise.

Similarly, Dr. P.V.K Sashidhar also conducted a research Ethics cafe-where we learnt how ethics in research is implemented, what committee does a scholar have to face and how to present, what questions to be expected from the panelists and how to answer. Being a part of his mock committee, it was a highly useful and intriguing experience to witness how things work at national and international level. He also conducted a mock Focus Group Discussion on the last day, that was highly engaging and informative. Demo sessions like these create interests among participants and stay with them forever.

Day 5

A quick recap of all the things learnt, shared and the future plan. Many participants shared their perspective on the programme and how it changed their outlook. It was followed by the valedictory session. A huge thanks to Dr. Sarvanan and Dr Raahalya, for bringing this amazing journey for us.

Change in Perspective

The NYPDP programme was truly an experience of a lifetime, serving as a transformative milestone in my professional journey. It provided a profound re-evaluation of the agricultural extension discipline, shifting my perspective from traditional technology transfer to a vibrant, contemporary landscape defined by innovation and market orientation.



Through insightful sessions led by esteemed scientists and practitioners, I gained a deeper understanding of modern extension roles-spanning policy engagement, agri-entrepreneurship, digital integration etc. These experiences highlighted a diverse array of non-traditional job opportunities, teaching me that navigating these paths successfully requires intentional competency building and continuous skill development. Beyond the academic content, the program's environment was exceptional; the high-quality facilitation, collaborative problem-solving exercises, and the invaluable opportunity to network with senior scientists, government officials, peers set a new benchmark for professional engagement. Ultimately, this programme did more than transferring knowledge-it provided the clarity and confidence to align my personal aspirations with the evolving needs of the discipline.





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