



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Ms. Twinkle Meher

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



Twinkle Meher

Introduction

From June 1–5, 2026, I got the opportunity to take part in the National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP). I was enrolled in the 13th batch of the program, which brought together postgraduate and doctorate students from 27 agricultural universities across 13 states to provide a platform for learning, networking and knowledge exchange. These connections and interactive learning opportunities enriched and inspired me in my future educational and professional endeavors.

Key Learnings :

Day 1

The inaugural day of NYPDP 2026 began with a glance of MANAGE and the NYPDP program's objectives, followed by an inspiring interaction in which participants revealed their reasons for participating. Through a professional identity self-reflection exercise, we were able to evaluate our learning objectives, capabilities, competencies and potential obstacles to our professional development. Dr. Raahalya led an engaging Human Career Mapping activity that introduced us to a variety of career paths in Research & Academics, Government Extension, NGOs & Development Organizations, Agribusiness & Start-ups and International Organizations. The first remarks focused on how crucial it is to comprehend the actual requirements of our farmers and match our efforts with realistic field conditions.



Day 2

The following day of NYPDP 2026 began with an illustrative recap session titled "Unlearn, Learn and Will Apply," which discussed the need of challenging existing assumptions, accepting the new knowledge and focusing on practical application. In addition to improving research, communication, content development, presentation, data analysis and knowledge dissemination. Dr. Aditya Sinha also emphasized how AI can change the extension professionals learn, work and interact with farmers. The sharing of information and experiences was promoted via group activities and conversations with alumni.



Day 3

NYPDP 2026's third day was buzzing with knowledge, inspiration and practical experience. Dr. Mahesh Chander gave a thoughtful and informative talk at the start of the day about how extension might support gender equality, organic farming and entrepreneurship. "Whether you are a student or scientist, you can also be an entrepreneur" is his provocative quote. The highlight of the day was a field visit to Access Livelihoods, where we met the founder and learnt about their efforts to create sustainable livelihood systems for rural populations, particularly for women. Their work in the handloom and dairy industries illustrated how social entrepreneurship can generate substantial economic opportunities while also empowering rural women.

A memorable tour of Hyderabad city marked the end of the day. Enjoying the breathtaking scenery of Hussain Sagar Lake, lounging in NTR park and touring the majestic Telangana Secretariat gave a cultural and recreational element to the educational process. Overall, day 3 provided an ideal balance of instruction, inspiration, field experience and wonderful memories.



Day 4

The reflection session "Learn, Unlearn and Apply," which reminded us that genuine learning comes from constantly adjusting and applying knowledge. In his captivating session on agricultural innovation, incubation, start-ups and the changing role of agricultural extension, Dr. Saravanan Raj emphasized how the current startup environment is changing agriculture and generating new job prospects. Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V, talk on policy engagement for agricultural extension addressed extension professionals' ability to influence policy through evidence-based recommendations, effective communication and advocacy. In the next session "From Lab to Land", Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar gave a demonstration of how collaboration and useful extension strategies can turn research into practical applications.

It was especially encouraging to hear him say that research is valuable not just for publications but also for producing real advantages for farmers. Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar presented an insightful Research Ethics Café at the end of the day that emphasized the value of integrity, responsibility and ethical conduct in research. Overall, day 4 provided important insights into innovation, policy involvement, research impact and professional ethics.



Day 5

The final day of NYPDP 2026 began with encouraging alumni stories, followed by a one-word summary session in which participants reflected on their learning journey throughout the program. In addition to practical demonstrations, Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar led an interesting session on Monitoring and Evaluation and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) methods. The session's main lesson was that "monitoring is an early warning system, while evaluation is a diagnosis," underscoring their significance in the successful execution and evaluation of programs. The valedictory session was both reflection and emotional, with participants sharing their five-day program experiences, lessons learned and unforgettable moments.

The certification ceremony, which marked the successful conclusion of an educational journey full of learning, networking, self-discovery and professional growth, brought the event to a close. Gratitude, inspiration and memorable experiences that will continue to direct us in our future occupations marked the program's conclusion.

Experience of Five Days

Every day of the programme brought new opportunities to learn, explore and grow, making it a truly enriching experience for an enthusiastic learner like me. Every moment helped me grow, from the enlightening discussions and interesting group activities to networking with people from all around it. Beyond the programme's academic excellence, the pleasant accommodations, fantastic hospitality and thoughtfully planned meals made the stay truly pleasurable and truly memorable.



Change in Perspective

Yes, the training had a big impact on how I thought about agricultural extension. Similar to many others, I previously thought of Extension Education as an insignificant discipline in comparison to the core agricultural sciences. But the training made it clear to me that Agricultural Extension is an essential link between the farming community and scientific advancements rather than just a supporting field. This program emphasized that while new technologies and innovations are developed inside laboratories of research institutions, their true impact is realized only when they reach farmers and are efficiently implemented in the farmers field.

By facilitating knowledge transmission, encouraging innovation and making sure that research results in significant improvements in farmers' livelihoods, agricultural extension fulfills this vital role. My discipline is increasingly seen as a center point that connects diverse sectors and offers significant worldwide potential with the right competencies. Personal transformation is a prerequisite for bringing about change.

Atmosphere and Environment

The session was lively and inspiring, with excellent facilities and a refreshing campus atmosphere. Networking with peers nationwide and engaging with scientists and professionals added great value. The curriculum's real-world exposure made the experience truly memorable and enlightening.



What I Appreciate

I appreciated a friendly and supportive atmosphere that encouraged everyone to engage, speak confidently and celebrate even minor achievements, reinforcing that every step of progress matters.

Peer interactions and Networking opportunities

Through peer connection, I was able to acquire creative strategies from other participants and exchange experiences. I was able to establish professional connections through networking events that would be helpful in my future research and career growth. Collaborative discussions helped me build confidence, improve my communication skills and widen my perspective in agricultural extensions.

Application of Learning

Going forward, I intend to integrate these learnings into my academic and professional journey. I am particularly interested in exploring how digital technologies and AI can be effectively integrated into agricultural extension systems while remaining farmer-centric, inclusive, and practical.

Significant Takeaway

- Collaboration: Emphasize the value of collaboration and teamwork in attaining long-term results.
- Innovation: Emphasize that advancement in any field is fueled by imagination and receptivity to novel concepts.

Application of this learning

- Use leadership and communication skills in future internships.
- Connect with professionals and look into career opportunities by using the networking abilities.
- Guide juniors and share program information.
- Make use of that learned research and analytical abilities in research projects and internships.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

MANAGE NYPDP was a truly inspiring experience that broadened my understanding of career opportunities in Agricultural Extension. These five days motivated me to dream bigger and grow both personally and professionally. I sincerely thank Dr. Saravanan Raj for his inspiring journey and the unforgettable lesson, "When nobody celebrates you, celebrate yourself," which strengthened my confidence and self-belief. My heartfelt thanks also go to Dr. Raahalya for her dedicated efforts in organizing the program. Meeting brilliant minds from different universities made this journey even more enriching and memorable.



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