

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 93

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# 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 during December 22-27, 2025.



Amina S S

## Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

Each day of the NYDPDP programme contributed meaningfully to my personal, academic and professional growth. The programme began by helping me understand the importance of self-exploration, reflection and clarity before stepping into professional roles. I learned that Agricultural Extension is not limited to technology transfer but is a global, multidisciplinary agenda requiring broader vision and responsibility. The Unlearn–Learn–Apply approach helped me critically evaluate my existing beliefs and replace them with adaptive, future-ready thinking. Exposure to research priorities, digital pathways and emerging competencies strengthened my academic confidence and helped me align my interests with real-world demands. Sessions on research methodologies, communication, storytelling, Monitoring and Evaluation and qualitative tools enhanced my practical understanding of extension work. Field exposure and interactions with development professionals revealed diverse career opportunities beyond conventional roles. By the end of the programme, I gained clarity, confidence and a renewed sense of purpose to approach extension as a change-making profession.



## A Five-Day Experience

The five-day NYPDP training experience was deeply enriching, transformative and intellectually stimulating. It provided a rare opportunity to step away from routine academic learning and engage in reflective, application-oriented discussions. The programme balanced theory, practice and personal growth in a thoughtful manner. Each session built upon the previous one, creating a continuous learning flow rather than isolated topics. The interactive activities and group exercises encouraged active participation and collaborative learning. The presence of experienced mentors made learning more meaningful and relatable. Overall, the training strengthened my professional identity and left me motivated to contribute more confidently to the field of Agricultural Extension.



## Change in perspective

Yes, the training significantly transformed my understanding of Agricultural Extension. Before the programme, I largely perceived extension as a mechanism for disseminating technologies and information to farmers. Through the NYPDP, I realised that extension is a dynamic profession involving innovation, policy engagement, digital tools, entrepreneurship and social inclusion. The sessions highlighted the importance of understanding human behaviour, institutional systems and societal change. Extension professionals were portrayed as facilitators, leaders and change agents rather than mere communicators. This broadened perspective helped me appreciate the depth and relevance of extension in addressing complex development challenges. The programme enabled me to view extension as a powerful platform for social transformation. This shift in thinking has reshaped my academic and career aspirations.



## Training Environment

The atmosphere during the training was welcoming, inclusive and intellectually energising. From the very beginning, participants were encouraged to express their thoughts freely without fear of judgment. The learning environment promoted mutual respect, collaboration and open dialogue. Interactive sessions and group activities helped break barriers among participants. Faculty members were approachable and supportive, creating a comfortable space for learning and reflection. Small gestures of recognition made participants feel valued and motivated. The overall environment fostered curiosity, confidence and a sense of belonging. This positive atmosphere greatly enhanced the quality of learning and engagement.



## What I Appreciated Most

What I appreciated most about the training programme was its authenticity and relevance to real-life professional challenges. The sessions were not delivered as conventional lectures but as meaningful conversations grounded in practical experience. Resource persons shared personal journeys, struggles and lessons, which made learning more relatable and inspiring. The programme emphasised reflection and critical thinking rather than rote learning. Exposure to diverse perspectives helped broaden my understanding of the extension ecosystem. The integration of academic rigor with real-world applications was particularly valuable. The training respected participants as emerging professionals, which boosted confidence and self-belief. This approach made the programme truly impactful.

## Peer Interactions and Networking

Peer interactions during the programme were highly enriching and memorable. Engaging with fellow scholars from different institutions provided diverse perspectives on academic and professional pathways. Informal discussions helped us share experiences, challenges and aspirations. These interactions fostered mutual learning and emotional support. Working together in group activities strengthened teamwork and communication skills. The friendships formed during the programme created a strong sense of community. Networking opportunities also opened doors for future academic collaboration and professional growth. These connections will continue to support and inspire me beyond the programme.



## My Takeaway

My most significant takeaway from the training was the clarity and confidence it instilled in me. The programme emphasised the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in a rapidly changing world. I realised that professional growth depends on mindset and self-belief as much as technical knowledge. The message that no one limits our growth except ourselves was deeply empowering. The training helped me accept that uncertainty is part of learning and growth. It encouraged me to take ownership of my professional journey. I emerged with a stronger sense of responsibility and purpose. This clarity will guide my future decisions in extension and development work.

## Action plan

I plan to apply the knowledge gained from this programme in both my academic and professional pursuits. The training strengthened my understanding of research methodologies, qualitative tools and Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks. I intend to integrate these approaches into my research work to ensure relevance and impact. The exposure to digital extension pathways will guide me in adopting technology-enabled solutions. I will also apply participatory and people-centred approaches in extension activities. The programme motivated me to explore career opportunities beyond traditional extension roles. I aim to contribute to development initiatives with confidence and clarity. Overall, the learning will shape my long-term professional growth.



## My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The MANAGE NYPDP journey was a transformative learning experience that reshaped my perspective and strengthened my professional identity. It provided clarity about my role and responsibilities as an extension professional. The programme helped me grow not only academically but also personally. It instilled confidence and encouraged me to think beyond limitations. The interactions, reflections and learning moments were deeply meaningful. The journey served as a turning point in my academic and career path. It was not just a training programme but a foundation for future growth. I will always consider it a milestone in my professional journey.



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