



# National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

## Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



### Seeds of Change: How MANAGE NYPDP Shaped My Extension Perspective

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at MANAGE Hyderabad during December 22-27, 2025.

 **BHAVANA S**

## Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

### Day 1

Day 1: The first day laid a strong conceptual foundation for the entire program. The sessions on new competencies and job opportunities helped me understand how Agricultural Extension is evolving beyond traditional roles. The group exercises and presentations encouraged self reflection on professional specialization and the importance of aligning one's academic training with real world demands.

### Day 2

Day 2: The second day focused on research priorities and the growing importance of digital competencies. I learned that extension professionals must now possess skills in digital literacy, data interpretation, and innovative communication strategies. The extension marketplace group discussion provided practical insights into how ideas can be translated into scalable extension solutions.

### Day 3

Day 3: Day three offered deep methodological learning. The session on the Delphi Technique introduced a structured approach to consensus building in research and policy formulation. Training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks strengthened my understanding of accountability, learning, and impact measurement in extension programs.

The demonstrations on Focus Group Discussions enhanced my qualitative research skills. Sessions on gender equality, entrepreneurship, and organic farming emphasized the need for inclusive, sustainable, and socially responsive extension approaches.

## Day 4

Day 4: The fourth day broadened my understanding of extension opportunities within the development sector, especially NGOs and social research organizations. Sessions on Social Network Analysis and textometry introduced advanced qualitative research tools that can enrich extension studies.

The visit to Pragati Exotica provided insights about landscaping and export potentials

## Day 5

Day 5: Deep insights about digital innovations in Agricultural Extension. A clarity on policy based research and its implications and importance of making policy briefs.

## A Five-Day Experience

The 5 days training experience was inspiring, very informative, professionally enriching, and personally transformative. The training provided conceptual depth, practical exposure, reflection, and peer learning. Each day was thoughtfully structured to progressively build competencies and confidence, making the program both comprehensive and impactful. The sessions delivered by various resource persons changed the perspective of me as a student of Agricultural Extension and made me realize the unnoticed areas and opportunities available.



## Change in Perspective

The training completely transformed my perspective on Agricultural Extension and helped me to gain an understanding of the subject in depth. Earlier, I perceived extension mainly as a system for technology dissemination and communication with the farmers. After NYPDP, I now understand extension as a multidisciplinary and policy-relevant field that integrates research, digital tools, entrepreneurship, social sciences, and governance to achieve sustainable development outcomes and helping farmers in every stage of the supply chain management to gain profit. I understood the opportunities that are abundantly found in our field in national and International level and the competencies required to seek those job opportunities. I also learnt that extension subject can be dealt by focusing on an area of specialization based on priorities which will help us to gain deeper insights about the subject and career development.



## Training Environment

The training environment was highly student friendly, inclusive, and vibrant throughout the 5 days. The MANAGE campus provided a calm and comfortable setting that encouraged us to be more enthusiastic and attentive. This also facilitates open dialogue and collaboration. The atmosphere fostered mutual learning through discussions, active participation and critical thinking, making learning both engaging and enjoyable. The environment was very dynamic and participative which was apart from our routine academics that enabled better networking and more inclusive



## What I Appreciated Most

I would appreciate the thoughtful program design and the flow of delivering various sessions that provided an overall clarity about the subject and the research priorities inspite of the short duration of five days. The training became an eye opener for me to overcome my procrastination and convert the challenges into new pathways for success. I also appreciate the relevance of the topics covered, and the expertise of the resource persons who made us to view and understand every important areas of extension and their implications. The balance between academic rigor, practical application, and personal reflection made the training holistic. I was inspired by the insights provided by the alumni of NYPDP under alumni interaction. The emphasis on emerging areas such as digital extension, gender studies, agripreneurship, policy engagement, innovation, different tools and methods used in research are particularly valuable and very useful for my research.



## peer interactions and networking

Peer interactions provided mutual learning and new idea exposure to diverse perspectives, institutional backgrounds and research interests. The interaction helped me to know about different culture from my colleagues. Networking helped me build meaningful professional relationships, improve my communication skills, and gain confidence in sharing ideas. These interactions helped me to overcome my fear and build my critical thinking which fostered the ability to share my thoughts which created a strong foundation for future academic collaboration and professional support. This networking gave me friends from different parts of the country which will be cherished in the long run.



## My Takeaway

My most significant takeaway from the training was the clarity and confidence it instilled in me. The program emphasized the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in a rapidly changing world. I realized 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 learnings by:

- Designing research that is policy relevant and based on current research priorities.
- Using qualitative and quantitative tools such as FGDs, SNA, and M&E frameworks effectively.
- Building new competencies required for career development.
- Seeking new learning pathways such as online courses, internships, and gaining knowledge in my area of specialization in research (climate change)
- Utilizing screen time for educational purposes and using the professional social media app LinkedIn for more information and updates.



## Overall reflection

The MANAGE NYPDP program was not merely a training program but a transformative professional eye-opener. It broadened my vision and reinforced my commitment to contribute meaningfully to agricultural extension.

## My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

My NYPDP journey was a milestone that reshaped my professional viewpoint, strengthened my confidence, and clarified my purpose. It transformed my understanding of extension and inspired me to pursue the field with responsibility and motivated me to contribute with full purpose as an agricultural extensionist. The journey helped me to realize my potential and became my starting point for my career development.



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