

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 95

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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



Ms. Malathi V

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

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

The training offered a comprehensive understanding of the evolving scope of agricultural extension, highlighting its transition beyond conventional advisory services. The sessions emphasized emerging research priorities and essential competencies, including research methodology, gender mainstreaming, policy engagement, and livelihood development.

Discussions on curriculum gaps, employment opportunities, and professional skill requirements prompted reflection on the need for future extension professionals to integrate interdisciplinary knowledge with evidence-based practices. The inaugural address by Dr. Saravanan Raj, who urged participants to “seek opportunities for yourself,” reinforced the importance of self-motivation and proactive professional development in the field of agricultural extension.

A key insight gained from the program was the understanding that clarity, creativity, and methodological rigor are complementary rather than contradictory elements of impactful research.

This perspective reshaped my view of agricultural extension research, highlighting that it need not be confined to quantitative approaches alone; qualitative and mixed-method designs are equally effective in capturing the social and behavioral dimensions of extension work.

Furthermore, the sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) emphasized that evaluation extends beyond mere compliance and serves as a strategic tool for accountability, organizational learning, and program improvement.

Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar’s session strengthened my methodological foundation by underscoring the role of M&E in impact assessment and learning processes. In addition, Dr. Sreeram Vishnu’s sessions on Social Network Analysis and Textometry introduced advanced analytical tools that are highly relevant and applicable to my ongoing research interests.

A Five-Day Experience

The training programme was intellectually stimulating and professionally enriching. The sessions moved beyond conventional lecture-based instruction and were designed to be highly interactive and discussion-oriented, fostering critical thinking and peer learning. The collaborative and motivating environment at MANAGE encouraged participants to freely express their viewpoints and actively engage in academic discussions.

The facilitators adopted participatory teaching methods that welcomed diverse perspectives and enabled in-depth examination of complex issues from multiple viewpoints. The inclusion of real-world case studies and exposure visits effectively bridged theoretical concepts with practical applications, enhancing the relevance of the sessions to both research and professional practice. This experiential learning approach promoted continuous reflection and inquiry an essential mindset for emerging agricultural extension professionals. Although the five-day programme was intensive, it created a focused learning atmosphere that minimized distractions and maximized meaningful engagement with the course content and fellow participants.



change your perspective

The training programme brought about a fundamental shift in my understanding of agricultural extension. Earlier, I perceived extension largely as a process of transferring technical information from researchers to farmers. However, the programme presented a broader and more integrated vision of extension as a dynamic and multidimensional system.

Agricultural extension was redefined as a platform for social transformation, innovation and technology integration, policy engagement, inclusive development, and sustainability facilitation. This expanded perspective strengthened my commitment to the discipline and highlighted its potential to generate meaningful and long-lasting impact in both research and practice. The NYPDP training further enabled me to view extension as a space for social innovation, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, and policy influence. It reinforced the understanding that contemporary extension professionals must contribute not only at the farm level but also to research advancement, institutional strengthening, and holistic rural development.



Training Environment

The training environment at MANAGE was highly organized and extremely conducive to effective learning. From the initial welcome to the well-structured reflection sessions, every aspect of the programme conveyed that participants were respected members of a professional learning community.

The use of small-group discussions and interactive learning formats created a psychologically safe space, enabling participants to ask questions freely, share ideas, and critically challenge existing assumptions.



In addition to formal academic sessions, adequate opportunities were provided for informal interaction and networking. These moments of social engagement complemented classroom learning and contributed to the development of meaningful professional relationships. Overall, the supportive institutional environment at MANAGE enhanced both the learning experience and the sense of professional belonging.

peer interactions and networking



One of the most significant outcomes of the training was the opportunity to develop professional networks with participants from across India. The diversity of academic backgrounds, institutional affiliations, regional contexts, and research interests enriched discussions and broadened understanding of the varied agricultural challenges faced across different agro-ecological and socio-economic settings. These interactions facilitated meaningful knowledge exchange and have already initiated prospects for future collaborative research and continued professional engagement.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

Attending the training programme proved to be a pivotal milestone in my professional journey. The experience acted as a catalyst in clarifying my professional direction and reinforced the understanding that agricultural extension is not merely an academic discipline, but a meaningful avenue for contributing to social change.

The programme strengthened my confidence and motivation to pursue research in agricultural extension and to play an active role in bridging gaps between farmers, institutions, and emerging technological landscapes.

The training also encouraged a shift in my personal outlook toward professional growth. It prompted me to move away from dependence on externally created opportunities and instead embrace a proactive approach rooted in self-initiative.

I learned that true independence lies in creating opportunities rather than waiting for them to emerge. Going forward, I am committed to taking full responsibility for my professional development, guided by the belief that **“True independence comes from taking initiative instead of waiting.”**



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