



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Reflective Report: National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

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Participated in the MANAGE-NYPDP at Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Thrissur during September 30 to October 5, 2024.

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Day 1: September 30, 2024

The first day began with a warm welcome and introductions, setting a positive tone for the program. The inaugural session and subsequent speeches helped me understand the evolving landscape of agricultural extension in India. Dr. Jiju P. Alex spoke on policy formulation and planning, offering a fresh perspective on the close linkage between policy, planning, and extension.



His examples from Kerala's development planning were particularly insightful. Later, Dr. Saravanan Raj emphasized that agricultural extension today is more than just technology transfer, it is about facilitating innovation. His insights on the need to update our extension curriculum resonated deeply with me as someone engaged in higher education. The group exercise at the end of the day was engaging, offering a great opportunity to collaborate with peers on redesigning the extension curriculum to make it more practical and future-ready.



Day 2: October 1, 2024

The second day opened my eyes to the transformative potential of digital tools in agricultural extension. Dr. Saravanan's session on ICTs underscored the importance of mobile apps, digital platforms, and decision-support tools.

His field-level examples were particularly impressive. The session on research priorities highlighted the importance of aligning research with ground realities, something I have always valued. Dr. Archana Bhatt's presentation on agrobiodiversity conservation encouraged me to think about integrating local knowledge into formal extension systems. Later, Dr. Sreeram Vishnu introduced us to network analysis, which was completely new to me and sparked ideas for application in my Ph.D. research. Dr. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee's session on policy engagement reinforced the critical role extension professionals play in bridging grassroots realities with policymaking.

Day 3: October 3, 2024



This was one of the most enriching days for me. The focus was on research methodologies, and I found Dr. Binoo Bonny's session particularly valuable. Her explanation of participatory research, case study design, and grounded theory felt highly relevant to my work. Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman's session on new competencies made me reflect on the importance of soft skills and systems thinking in the current agricultural context. Dr. Mahesh Chander added a practical perspective with his session on organic farming, entrepreneurship, and gender equality. I gained a deeper appreciation for social inclusion in agri-based enterprises. Ms. Swati Nayak's experiences at IRRI provided real-world insight into making research more actionable and farmer-centric.

Day 4: October 4, 2024

This day broadened my global perspective. Sessions by Mr. Parmveer Singh and Dr. Vikram Koundinya helped me understand how agricultural extension is evolving globally and introduced potential international learning and career opportunities.



Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar's session on monitoring and evaluation was extremely relevant. He simplified complex concepts like logical frameworks, indicators, and data interpretation, boosting my confidence to integrate M&E into my future projects.



The visit to the Kudumbashree Mission was a memorable highlight. Witnessing community-driven development and women's empowerment in action was deeply inspiring and gave me practical ideas to take back to my own region.

Day 5: October 5, 2024

The final day focused on future directions and reflection. Dr. Sethuraman Sivakumar's talk on emerging research approaches made me reconsider my research methods.



His idea of moving from “accretion to excavation” in extension research was particularly thought-provoking. Dr. Archana Raghavan highlighted the importance of collaboration among universities, government, and private institutions. Dr. S. Ram Kumar's session on the entrepreneurship ecosystem clarified how extension professionals can support and guide agri-entrepreneurs. During the action planning session, I committed to applying these learnings in my Ph.D. research and professional journey. The valedictory session was emotional and inspiring, marking the end of an unforgettable experience.

Training Experience



This training was transformative and deeply fulfilling. The blend of academic insight, interactive sessions, and practical exposure offered a unique opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and redefine my professional goals. It was a perfect blend of learning, networking, and capacity building.

Change in Perspective

I now view agricultural extension as a strategic, multidimensional discipline, not limited to information transfer but capable of driving behavioral change, influencing policy, and fostering entrepreneurship. The program inspired me to adopt a systemic, research-driven, and people-centered approach.





Training Environment

The environment was vibrant and conducive to growth. The lush green campus of Kerala Agricultural University provided peace and inspiration, while the supportive organizers and facilitators fostered a welcoming and intellectually stimulating atmosphere. Peer learning was encouraged throughout.

What I Appreciate



The diversity of expert speakers, from MANAGE, ICAR, international institutions, and grassroots organizations, offered a comprehensive and balanced perspective. The depth of content, quality of discussion, and focus on real-world applications made the training program outstanding.

Networking



Interacting with peers was a major highlight. Sharing regional experiences, challenges, and research interests led to valuable collaborations. I built a strong network with scholars and practitioners from across India, which I intend to maintain and grow.

Agricultural extension is not static, it must evolve with science, society, and technology. My key takeaway is the importance of building competencies, fostering creativity, and embracing collaboration to be an effective extension professional.

Action Plan

I plan to:

- Incorporate digital innovations and advanced research tools in my Ph.D. work
- Engage farmers through participatory models and entrepreneurship training
- Promote policy engagement and curriculum reform in extension education
- Initiate collaborative research proposals with peers and institutions



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The NYPDP journey was a turning point in my academic and professional life, a week filled with learning, introspection, and renewed purpose. It reshaped my understanding of agricultural extension and inspired me to become a more competent, visionary, and inclusive extension professional.

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