

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 76

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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



MANAGE NYPDP: From Learning Extension to Living Extension.

Ms. Shalini R

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



Shalini R

Key Learnings



The five-day NYPDP programme was a truly transformative journey for me. It began by helping me understand myself better and gradually built my confidence, competencies, and clarity about my future in Agricultural Extension. Through interactive sessions, group activities, field exposure, and continuous recap discussions, I learned that extension today goes far beyond technology transfer-it connects research, development, digital innovation, gender inclusion, entrepreneurship, and policy engagement. The exposure to research priorities, qualitative methods, and monitoring and evaluation strengthened my ability to think critically and align my Master's research with real-world impact. Regular reflection sessions helped me overcome fear and hesitation to speak, while peer interactions and experiential learning showed me the power of collaboration and networking. Overall, NYPDP reshaped my mindset, strengthened my belief in myself, and prepared me to move forward with confidence, purpose, and responsibility as a future Agricultural Extension professional.

Day 1

I learned that self-reflection and self-awareness are the foundations of professional growth, as emphasised by Dr Saravanan Raj, Director, Agricultural Extension, MANAGE, during the reflection session. Interactions facilitated by Dr Raahalya S (MANAGE Fellow) and alumni helped me build confidence and communicate freely. I also understood that personal clarity is essential for effective leadership in Agricultural Extension.



Day 2



Through the Unlearn–Learn–Apply framework explained by Dr Raahalya S, I gained clarity on academic direction and career planning. Dr Saravanan Raj highlighted the importance of identifying focused research priorities and specialisation. I also learned that adaptability and digital skills are critical for becoming a future-ready extension professional.

Day 3

Sessions by Dr Parmveer Singh on the Delphi Technique and Dr P. V. K. Sasidhar on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment strengthened my understanding of research rigour and evidence-based analysis. The session by Dr Mahesh Chander on gender mainstreaming, entrepreneurship development, and organic farming broadened my perspective on inclusive and sustainable extension approaches. Participating in the Focus Group Discussion improved my qualitative research skills, and I realised that evidence-based, gender-sensitive, and market-oriented research is essential for credible extension and effective policy interventions.



Day 4

Dr Krithika Sundaram highlighted the expanding roles of extension professionals in development organisations and social research. Dr Sreeram Vishnumoorthy (KAU) introduced advanced qualitative tools such as Social Network Analysis and Textometry, enhancing my analytical perspective. The field exposure visit to Pragati Exotics in Hyderabad taught me the importance of enterprise-based and field-oriented extension approaches.



Day 5



The session by Dr Rasheed Sulaiman emphasised the role of extension professionals in policy engagement and evidence-based advocacy. Interactions with Dr Saravanan Raj reinforced leadership, self-belief, and long-term vision in career building. I learned that Agricultural Extension professionals act as change agents connecting research, field realities, and policy for sustainable development.

Training Experience

The five-day NYPDP training experience was truly transformational and empowering for me. Each day built seamlessly on the previous one, thoughtfully integrating reflection, research orientation, experiential learning, field exposure, and inspiration. Beyond academic enrichment, the programme enabled me to build strong peer networks and meaningful professional connections, where ideas, experiences, and aspirations were openly exchanged. Interactions with fellow participants, alumni, and domain experts broadened my perspective and significantly strengthened my confidence. Above all, the NYPDP equipped me with clarity of purpose, practical competence, and self-belief, empowering me to translate learning into focused, impactful action in my professional journey.



Change in Perspective

Before the program, I viewed Agricultural Extension mainly as a field-level discipline or a path toward academia or competitive exams. This training completely transformed my outlook, showing me that it is a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and global profession that integrates research, policy, technology, entrepreneurship, and community development. I now see that specialisation within subfields can open diverse career opportunities, and the discipline is not confined to traditional roles—it is a platform for innovation, impact, and leadership.

Atmosphere and Environment

The atmosphere was vibrant, engaging, and intellectually stimulating, fostering curiosity and open dialogue at every stage. Mentors, faculty, and alumni created a supportive and inspiring environment, while peer interactions were collaborative and energising. The mix of classroom sessions, practical demonstrations, and field exposure fostered a balanced and dynamic learning space, where ideas, questions, and reflections were welcomed and valued. The positive energy and mutual encouragement made the environment both professional and deeply motivating.



What I Appreciate

I most appreciated the integration of theory, practice, and personal reflection. Every session was designed not just to impart knowledge, but to enable application, nurture critical thinking, and build professional confidence. I valued the opportunity to interact directly with accomplished faculty and alumni, receive constructive feedback, and see real-world examples that connected classroom learning to field impact. The program was a complete learning ecosystem, balancing skill development, research orientation, and leadership insights.

Networking

Peer interactions and networking were immensely enriching, offering diverse perspectives, experiences, and collaborative energy. Engaging with fellow participants helped me broaden my understanding of global and interdisciplinary approaches in Agricultural Extension, while also fostering lasting professional relationships. Sharing challenges, ideas, and aspirations allowed me to reflect on my own growth, learn from others, and identify opportunities for mentorship and collaboration, making the experience truly holistic and impactful.



Most Significant Takeaway



My most significant takeaway from the NYPDP training was that Agricultural Extension is far more than traditional field work-it is a dynamic, interdisciplinary, and global profession. The program taught me the importance of self-motivation, personal excellence, and continuous learning, and showed how knowledge, when combined with clarity and courage, can be transformed into real impact in communities, research, and policy. Mentors like Dr Saravanan Raj and interactions with peers reinforced that with the right mindset and effort, challenges become opportunities, inspiring me to approach my future career with purpose, confidence, and determination.

Action plan



I plan to leverage the program's insights by integrating research-driven approaches, digital tools, and community engagement strategies in my academic and professional projects. I aim to focus on specialised areas within Agricultural Extension, contribute to policy dialogue, innovation-driven initiatives, and development projects, and actively network for collaborations.

The skills in monitoring, evaluation, qualitative research, and evidence-based decision-making will guide me in creating tangible impact, while the mentorship and inspiration from this program will motivate me to pursue excellence in every endeavour.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

My journey at MANAGE NYPDP was truly inspiring, enriching, and transformative. It gave me the chance to connect with bright peers from across India, engage in meaningful group activities, and learn from experienced mentors who shared practical insights and wisdom. Every session sparked new ideas, broadened my perspective, and boosted my confidence, while the networking opportunities built lasting professional connections. This program not only enhanced my knowledge and skills but also ignited my passion for Agricultural Extension, leaving me motivated to pursue my career with purpose, vision, and determination.



Ms. Shalini R

IInd Year Student

M.Sc. Agricultural Extension Education

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology,

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU)

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

e-mail: shalinir120@gmail.com

MANAGE - Center for Agricultural Extension Innovations, Reforms and Agripreneurship (MANAGE- CAEIRA)

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad- 500 030, INDIA

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