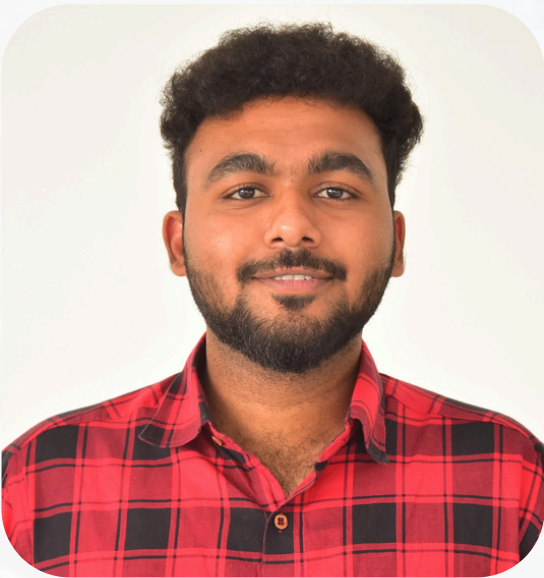




National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Envisaging Extension via Young Minds: Upgrading extension from its roots

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

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Introduction

I have faced huge sum of balks for attending NYPDP-Training of MANAGE but the acumen I gathered and the synergetic efforts of the experts/personnels made me realize it's worth and substance, myself I felt fortunate for been a part of NYPDP after getting a grip on after all hurdles.

Key Learnings

Day 1: Unveiling the different Extension Outlook

With enthusiasm and excitement, all 55 participants gathered at the prestigious "Norman Borlaug Hall" for broadening of extension mindset. Dr Saravanan Raj, Director (Agricultural Extension), inaugurated with effective questions on the reason for opting Extension degree programme and perspective on it. The brief answer of him enlightened me to view Agriculture Extension in an entirely varied perspective. Significance of aligning my competencies with my research priorities and job opportunities was cognized. From the perception of viewing extension as simple subject if got shifted to a global one. Subject/course wise opportunities available over the world and the only skills that should be gained to become prospectus in extension gave me a hopeful motivation. I had realized the power of voice and communication while taking part in the activities.



Day 2 : Change is the only constant thing

The day began with fresh excitement to learn, inspired by the knowledge gained the previous day. Like me, everyone in the hall was filled with the same eagerness. Recap session taught me the need for evaluative learning where I should unlearn unnecessary feeds. Dr. Saravanan Raj shaped our thinking to move beyond traditional extension ideas. I learned that change in human development is closely linked to extension work, which must also evolve with time.

Two important lessons I learned were that extension research should be aligned with global priorities, and that digital knowledge is essential in today's agricultural extension work. I also realized that continuous learning is necessary for extension professionals, and online platforms make this possible. The activity session helped us understand the role of extension in innovation marketing.

Day 3 : Methods are the baits to capture quality data

The day began with the same positive mindset and featured lectures by three eminent experts. Dr. Paramveer Singh explained the Delphi Technique in detail, which helped us understand how to collect quality, reliable, valid, and descriptive data in social science research. Dr. P. V. K. Sasidhar shared his valuable knowledge on Monitoring and Evaluation. Through his session and the case studies discussed, I learned about the methods, criteria, techniques, competencies, and designs needed to effectively monitor and evaluate a programme.

Focus Group Discussion session provided the opportunity to gain experience by doing it, I learnt direct qualitative data collection techniques at an ease. Finally, Dr. Mahesh Chander highlighted the importance of extension in entrepreneurship, gender, and organic farming. I learned that inclusiveness and sustainability require deeper and broader engagement with agricultural extension, and these areas need to be actively explored.



Day 4: Extension needs Expansion

The exploration to various segments of extension in agriculture continues and it gave a chance to interact with Dr Krithika Sundaram. The words showered by her showed the field reality of extension and the areas needed for the development of humans. I had realised that the fate of extension is not only the technology transfer but also beyond its set limit, where it should be extended. Professionals of Extension are the bridge between research science and societal communities that need a shout-out.

I was exposed to a new technique of textometry and social network analysis by Dr. Sreeram Vishnu which made me to understand its process and procedures. Visit to Pragati Exotica helped me to witness the value of floriculture and landscaping which still remains underrated among the agriculture students.

Day 5: Extension as underlying asset of policy formulation.

The final day focused on the emerging use of digital innovation in extension, guided by Dr Saravanan Raj. I learned that innovation is no longer controlled only by organizations; it has now shifted to individuals. With digital knowledge, individuals can become innovators, supported by policies and schemes. Dr Rasheed Sulaiman strongly emphasized that extension professionals should actively engage in policy-making and policy briefings. While the extension's role is not to control policy, its responsibility is to influence it through the right competencies and informed engagement.



Five-days Training Experience

“This five-day NYPDP training has been a true inspiration for understanding how a training programme should be conducted. The efforts of all the resource persons created a strong and meaningful learning experience in agricultural extension. Each day, our exposure to the extension sector increased steadily. The knowledge and values shared were neither too complex nor too simple—they were balanced and easy to understand. The NYPDP training was delivered to the right participants, at the right time, at the right level, for the right discipline, and by the right experts. From the beginning to the end of these five days, we were provided with both valuable knowledge and good food.”

Change in Perspective

As like most of the Extension scholars I too felt there are only limited number of professional opportunities in my discipline, this training opened the doors to witness the numerous chances spread across the globe. I realized that social science students don't have any extra time, but they are not consuming it as students of other disciplines do.



Atmosphere and Environment

MANAGE has provided top notch facilities and amenities that prepared me sophisticated for learning. Refreshments were given at suitable time. Foods provided were nutritious and tastier enough. The comfortable learning atmosphere made us engaged throughout the sessions.



What I Appreciate

The arrangements for the training was impressive. Conduction and coordination of the training was so smooth, I did not feel any tiredness or inconvenience. The way of respect is shown by every individuals of MANAGE created a motivation and responsibility to gain knowledge. Though I am a student, I felt entirely treated as an official for the first time.



Peer Interaction and Networking

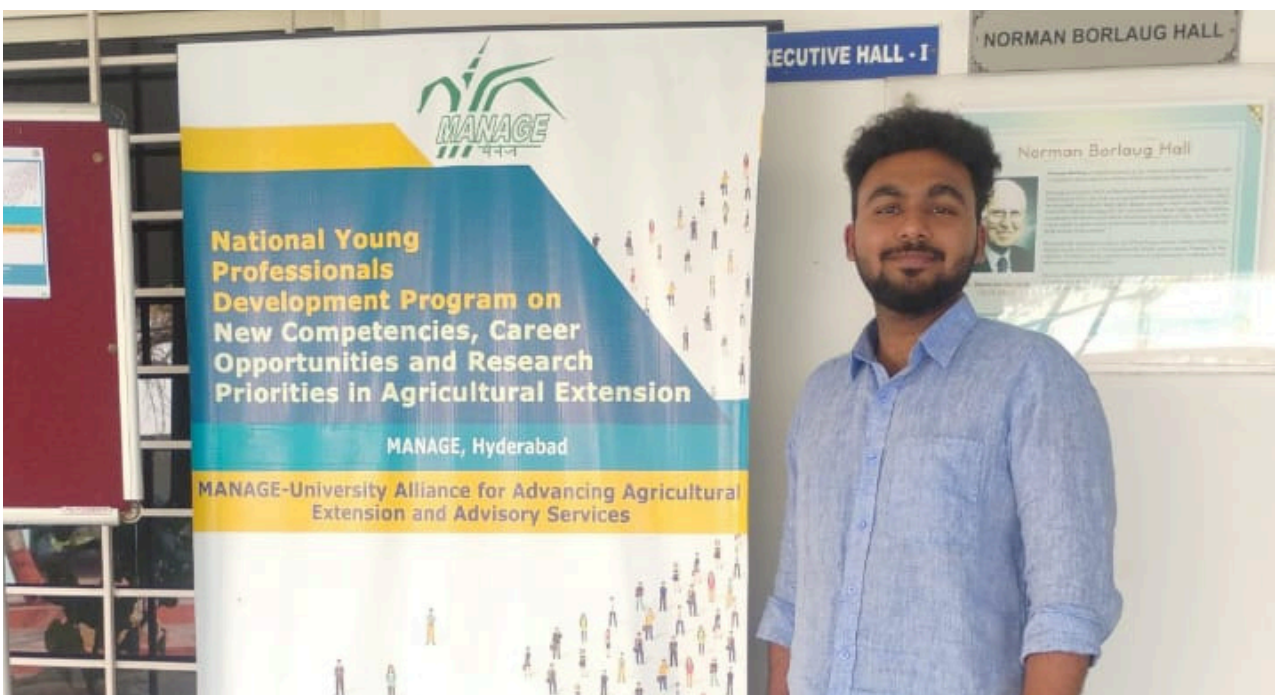
In the first session, Dr. Saravanan Raj encouraged us to express our thoughts openly and highlighted the importance of communication, a message he emphasized throughout the training. The participation of multi-lingual colleagues created an appreciation for a diverse learning environment. Cultural, social, and ideological differences strengthened our sense of unity in diversity. It was clearly conveyed that effective communication is the key to successful extension outreach.





Most Significant Takeaway

Apart from subject and theoretical knowledge I gained, the thumb rules I learnt are time utilization, process initiation, updated knowledge, interest to explore and unintentional networking are the foundational qualities an extension personnel should possess. NYPDP-Training became an inspiration for me, and I set this an example to envision trainings programmes.



Action plan

I assure myself that I will strive to become an extension professional with the right competencies and qualifications that I learned about through NYPDP. I will stay consistent, keep improving, and contribute positively to my discipline. Instead of blaming the extension field for its limitations, I will work to become a worthy professional within it. I have decided to overcome hesitation and delay, perform with confidence, and give my best in whatever I do.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

MANAGE's NYPDP from Day 1 to Day 5 kept impressing me, it left a unerasable memories and learnings of my career. The humans I met within those 47 acres will be my foundational contacts for my life. Entry to exit of MANAGE gave me a lot of experiences of extension experts, which will be useful throughout my life. With hesitations and as an introvert, I came and left as a motivated extensionist. Now, I am seeing the world from a different perspective as the product of NYPDP.



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