

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 79

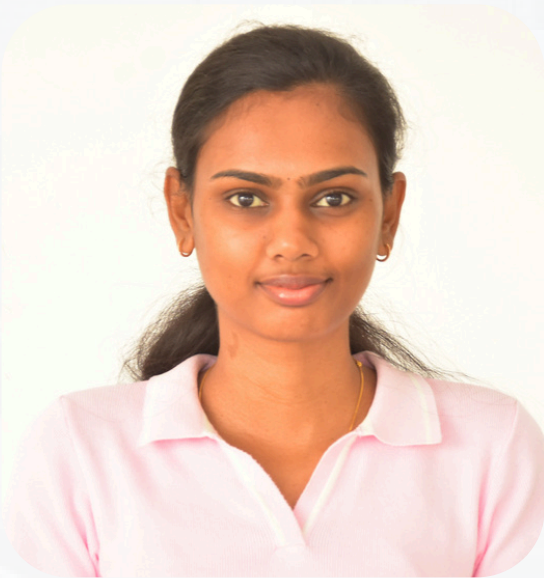
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National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



“From seeking positions, to seeking purpose” – My Manage NYPDP diary

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



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Introduction

The National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) at MANAGE was not merely a five-day training programme; it was a deeply reflective journey that reshaped my understanding of agricultural extension and my role within it. When I arrived at MANAGE, I carried aspirations, uncertainties, and a growing curiosity about the subject and how my work could create meaningful change beyond academic and institutional boundaries. As the days passed, the programme gently but firmly nudged me to rethink my priorities—not in terms of jobs or designations, but in terms of purpose, contribution, and long-term impact.

Key Learnings



One of my most significant learnings was understanding the competencies required for new-generation extension professionals—critical thinking, adaptability, communication, digital literacy, and policy awareness. The sessions on research priorities, digital pathways for extension, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) helped me realize that extension today is deeply interconnected with technology, entrepreneurship, and evidence-based decision-making.

Each day of the programme unfolded new layers of understanding about agricultural extension and development. I gained clarity on how the role of an extension professional has evolved from being a mere knowledge disseminator to a facilitator, policy influencer, and change agent.

I also learned how policy advocacy, gender inclusion, and entrepreneurship are no longer optional add-ons but central pillars of sustainable agricultural development. The exposure to global perspectives and emerging career pathways broadened my aspirations and encouraged me to think beyond conventional boundaries.

Training Experience

What made the training truly impactful was the participatory and experiential learning approach. The sessions were not one-way lectures; instead, they were vibrant spaces for dialogue, debate, group work, and reflection. Activities such as group discussions, presentations, chart work, and case analyses ensured that every participant was actively involved.

The facilitators played a crucial role in creating an inclusive learning environment. Their ability to simplify complex concepts, encourage questions, and connect theory with real-world practice made learning both engaging and meaningful.

What I Appreciate

What stood out for me was the intentional effort to empower young professionals. NYPDP did not treat us as passive learners but as future leaders in the development sector. The emphasis on values, ethics, and responsibility reminded me that professional success must always be aligned with social impact.

I also deeply appreciated the humility and approachability of the resource persons. Their lived experiences, struggles, and journeys made the sessions relatable and inspiring. Listening to their stories reinforced my belief that meaningful change is driven by commitment, perseverance, and continuous learning. I truly appreciated the well-organized schedule, smooth coordination, and the attention given to participant comfort and well managed logistics.



Peer Interaction and Networking

One of the most enriching aspects of NYPDP was the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of participants from different states, disciplines, and institutions. These interactions went beyond formal introductions and evolved into meaningful conversations about shared aspirations, challenges, and dreams and gave me friendships that are to be treasured for life. Informal conversations, group activities, and shared reflections allowed learning to continue beyond scheduled sessions. Also the programme helped me build a strong professional network that I believe will continue to support my academic and career journey.



Most Significant Takeaway

The key significant takeaways from NYPDP was the realisation that professional growth in agricultural extension cannot be viewed through a narrow or short-term lens. The programme repeatedly emphasised that remaining confined to routine, lower-level roles—without questioning their scope or relevance—can gradually limit both learning and impact. NYPDP encouraged me to think beyond immediate responsibilities and to consciously seek spaces where strategic thinking, innovation, and leadership are valued.

The programme reinforced that stagnation often occurs not due to lack of opportunity, but due to hesitation in exploring unfamiliar paths. NYPDP gave me the confidence to remain open to interdisciplinary roles and emerging areas of work.

This shift in thinking helped me view success not merely as progression, but as sustained relevance and responsible engagement with the field.



Action plan

Inspired by the learnings from NYPDP, I have outlined a personal action plan that focuses on intentional growth rather than immediate outcomes. A key step forward for me is to strengthen the linkage between my ongoing academic and research work and real-world extension challenges. I aim to ensure that my research remains grounded, relevant, and capable of informing practice and policy discussions.

I also plan to consciously build my capacity in areas that are increasingly critical for contemporary extension professionals. This includes improving my analytical and writing skills, engaging more deeply with policy-related literature, and familiarising myself with digital tools and participatory methodologies used in extension and development contexts.

Another important aspect of my action plan is to actively seek exposure beyond familiar environments such as exploring interdisciplinary collaborations and remaining open to opportunities at national and international levels.



Ultimately, my action plan is guided by the understanding that meaningful professional growth requires patience, consistency, and clarity of purpose.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

NYPDP has been a turning point in my journey as a young professional which helped me connect my personal aspirations with larger societal goals. As I move forward, I carry with me the reflections, insights, and inspirations gained during these five days at MANAGE. I now see myself not just as a learner or job seeker, but as a responsible young professional committed to evolving with the discipline and contributing meaningfully to its growth.

NYPDP has strengthened my confidence to evolve alongside my discipline and to engage with my work more thoughtfully. It has reminded me that meaningful professional journeys are built not through haste, but through clarity, reflection, and sustained commitment.



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