

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 82

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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



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

 [Sahithiya Selvam](#)

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

The MANAGE NYPDP training profoundly reshaped my understanding of agricultural extension, evolving it from mere technology transfer to a holistic focus on human development. I discovered infinite national and global job opportunities, far beyond traditional roles, and identified essential competencies like networking, policy analysis, and research tools such as the Delphi technique and focus group discussions. Dr. Saravanan Raj's advice to "explore yourself first" became a guiding mantra, while group activities built my confidence and interpersonal skills. Sessions emphasized unlearning old habits for personal and professional growth, equipping me to excel in NGOs, entrepreneurship, and international arenas. Overall, it empowered me to script my own success story with newfound clarity and ambition.



Day 1

My Day 1 at MANAGE began with sheer excitement upon entering the lush green campus, where warm hospitality, comfortable stays, and delicious food instantly set a positive tone. We gathered in the fully furnished Norman Borlaug Hall, thrilled by personalized name boards and modern amenities. The session kicked off with an inspiring video on MANAGE NYPDP's journey, priming us for transformation.

Dr. Raahalya S engaged us deeply by asking each participant, "What does extension mean to you?" and recording our responses, making it profoundly personal.



Dr. Saravanan Raj then delivered a standout session on "New Competencies and Job Opportunities in Agricultural Extension," illuminating the field's shift to human development and vast global prospects. Group activities pushed me out of my comfort zone, fostering wide interactions and initial networks. The day felt enriching and empowering, blending inspiration with practical insights that lingered long after.

Day 2

Day 2 opened with the insightful "Unlearn, Learn, and Will Apply" activity, which brought remarkable clarity to my personal and professional development paths. Dr. Saravanan Raj followed with a discussion on global and national research issues and priorities, highlighting actionable strategies for extension professionals. We had valuable interactions with MANAGE interns, gaining firsthand knowledge about ongoing internships and career trajectories.

The daily NYPDP alumni sessions broadened our horizons, revealing diverse extension paths like policy work and international roles. Structured peer conversations built lasting connections across India, while practical tips on applying research energized me. The day's dynamic energy from fellow participants kept momentum high, reinforcing the power of continuous learning in this evolving field.



Day 3

Day 3 proved even more empowering and exciting, brimming with creativity and profound knowledge that elevated the entire training. Dr Raahalya ignited us with a captivating storytelling session that sparked imaginative thinking. Dr. Parmveer Singh broke down the Delphi technique from the basics, explaining decision-making processes, required timelines, and expert involvement in meticulous detail.

Dr. P.V.K. Sasidhar focus group discussion session was truly engaging, with his deep knowledge of monitoring and evaluation serving as an eye-opener.



Further, Dr. Mahesh Chandar sessions on extension for entrepreneurship, gender equality, and organic farming featured inspiring with real-life examples. Memorable quotes like "You are like a brand, take care" and "Find a path for you, script your own success story" captured my heart and fueled lasting ambition.



Day 4

Day 4 commenced with reflective notes on our learning journey thus far, allowing us to internalize key insights. Dr. Krithika Sundaram's technical session, "Beyond Technology Transfer: Extension Professionals in the Development Sector," clearly outlined our transformative roles in NGOs and developmental work. Dr. Sreeram Vishnu then expertly covered Social Network Analysis and Textometry, demonstrating tools for mapping relationships and data analysis.

The highlight was our field visit to Pragati Exotica in Hyderabad, where we explored entrepreneurship and market intelligence through hands-on observation and local interactions. This bridged theory with real-world application, reinforcing the extension's vital role in sustainable development and leaving me inspired to implement these concepts.

Day 5

Day 5 arrived with a bittersweet mix of sadness and excitement, marking the journey's close. Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman session on policy briefs offered deep insights through interactive Q&A on their real-world impacts. We then recorded feedback on camera—my first time, a nerve-wracking yet proud milestone. In the training hall, group sharing sessions evoked mixed emotions; I spoke twice, sharing my experiences despite poor health. The certificate distribution ceremony was profoundly honouring. I was privileged to receive mine from the inspirational Dr. Saravanan Raj. This culminated our collective transformation, blending gratitude with motivation for the road ahead.



A Five-Day Experience

My MANAGE NYPDP journey began amid confusion about whether to attend, but seniors' encouragement propelled me forward. After a cancelled Punjab batch, I secured the Hyderabad slot as part of the first paid group, overcoming fresh doubts to commit fully. The five days flew by in a whirlwind of inspiration and transformation, from my excited campus entry amid greenery and hospitality to comfortable stays and nourishing meals.

Norman Borlaug Hall's equipped setup with name boards added thrill, while daily routines wove learning, activities, and reflections seamlessly. Presentations and discussions pushed me beyond my comfort zone, creating unforgettable memories with peers and faculty that I'll cherish forever.

Change in Perspective

Before MANAGE, I viewed agricultural extension as confined to routine jobs, but the training revealed it as a dynamic global subject centered on human development. I now recognize infinite opportunities in research, policy, NGOs, and beyond traditional roles, understanding its evolution from tech transfer to empowerment.



No longer blaming situations, I embrace seizing every opportunity and committing to daily growth even a bit more than the previous day. Extension feels like a judgment-free platform for sharing ideas, perspectives, and experiences. MANAGE instilled self-belief for greater achievements, empowering me to script a unique success story.

Atmosphere and Environment

The MANAGE campus is enchanted with its lush greenery, creating instant peace and focus from the moment of arrival. Comfortable stays, nutritious and varied meals, and impeccable hospitality ensured our well-being throughout. Fully furnished halls boasted modern amenities like name boards, fostering an engaging atmosphere.

Flawless time management kept sessions on track, while open spaces encouraged free-flowing idea-sharing without fear of judgment. Faculties cultivated a safe, empowering environment where everyone felt valued. Daily alumni interactions injected vibrancy, making the holistic setup not just conducive but joyful for deep learning.



Peer Interactions and Networking

Networking blossomed naturally, as I connected with participants from across India, sparking cultural exchanges and even learning new words in regional languages. Interactions with MANAGE interns demystified ongoing programs, while NYPDP alumni offered candid career insights. Group tasks built instant trust and bonds, pushing me to initiate conversations beyond my comfort zone.



I discovered LinkedIn's immense potential and became active immediately, exchanging contacts for future collaborations. These relationships now form a lifelong professional web, turning strangers into allies committed to extension's growth.

What I appreciate

I deeply appreciate the training's structured planning, which ensured comprehensive coverage of extension's facets without overwhelm. Precise time management maximized every minute, blending theory with practice seamlessly. Expert faculties, especially Dr. Saravanan Raj inspiration and Dr. Raahalya engagement, elevated every session. Interactive alumni and intern sessions broadened our career visions profoundly. Hands-on elements like field visits and on-camera feedback honed practical skills. The fear-free space allowed authentic sharing of perspectives. Receiving a certificate from such a renowned institution was motivating. Overall, this thoughtful blend made the experience unparalleled.



Most Significant Takeaway

Key takeaways include never blame situations or challenges; instead, grab all possible opportunities with enthusiasm. Dr. Saravanan Raj call to "explore yourself first" underscores self-awareness. Devote yourself fully to discipline, as it naturally leads to your rightful place. Extension harbours infinite global jobs demanding competencies like Delphi, FGDs, and policy skills. Unlearn outdated habits to fuel personal growth. Network relentlessly via platforms like LinkedIn. Draw inspiration from real-life stories to script your success. Commit to daily learning, surpassing yesterday's progress. Above all, believe in yourself for extraordinary achievements.

Action plan

My action plan starts with activating LinkedIn: posting weekly, connecting with five peers daily, and engaging actively. I'll practice presentations and group discussions whenever opportunity hits me to build confidence. Every day, I'll update myself with new competencies. Recommend the training to my fellow juniors. Maintain a daily learning journal to track my progress.



I will push myself beyond my boundaries to become fearless. I will think in a broader perspective. I'll specialize in a selected field within agricultural extension to gain enough experience.

My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

This journey ignited from initial confusion unsure whether to attend amid seniors' suggestions but their support won out. A cancelled Punjab batch led to Hyderabad's paid opportunity, testing my resolve yet proving pivotal. Grateful beyond words to Dr. Saravanan Raj and Dr. Raahalya for this life-changing platform. The campus's greenery, hospitality, sessions, and peers wove pure magic over five days. Pushed beyond my comfort zone, I gained self-belief and cherished memories from laughs to profound insights. I'll forever recommend it to juniors, as MANAGE affirmed extension's global scope and my potential within it.



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