

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 84

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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



Ms. Sethna.K. A

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

 **Sethna K. A.**

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

Each day of the NYDPDP programme contributed uniquely to my learning and professional growth.

Day 1

Day 1 laid a strong foundation by challenging long-standing stereotypes about Agricultural Extension, emphasizing that it is not merely about communication or technology transfer, but a dynamic, multidisciplinary discipline with global relevance. The sessions helped me understand the vast career landscape in extension and highlighted the importance of mindset, self-exploration, and skill awareness.

The insightful sessions by Dr. Saravanan Raj were eye-opening and empowering. He highlighted the vast and diverse career opportunities in Agricultural Extension, easing employment anxiety rooted in narrow perceptions. A key realisation: The role we aspire to is just one among hundreds making self-exploration, mindset, and skill awareness crucial.

Day 2

Day 2 focused on the future of extension through digital pathways, e-extension services, mobile applications, social media, and virtual advisory platforms, demonstrating how technology enhances reach, efficiency, and inclusiveness.

Day 3

Day 3 deepened my academic and professional orientation through exposure to the Delphi Technique for Research & Decision-Making, the Session was led by Dr. Paramveer Singh Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Canada, he Introduced the Delphi Technique from the basics and clearly explained stages, expert opinion gathering, and its relevance in research and extension work. The storytelling session conducted by Dr. Raahalya S was highly interactive and engaging. It encouraged creative thinking, effective communication, and confident expression of ideas for creativity and communication.

Monitoring and Evaluation Session by P. V. K. Sasidhar, IGNOU, New Delhi focused on practical aspects of Monitoring and Evaluation and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was the major highlight, First-ever hands-on experience participating in an FGD and I got a detailed guidance on planning, participant introduction, facilitation, and time management in Monitoring and Evaluation.

Day 4

Day 4 deepened my understanding of qualitative research instruments. The documentation session led by Dr. Sreeram Vishnumoorthy enriched our research perspective. The Session led by Dr. Krithika Sundaram gave strong emphasis on documentation, social research, and impact-oriented interventions. By emphasizing future competencies, policy engagement, leadership roles, and reflection, the last day solidified all the learning and strengthened self-assurance, clarity, and purpose.

An inspiring interaction by Dr. Saravanan Raj reinforced that background never limits potential, his journey as a Tamil medium student and proud TNAU alumnus strengthened my belief in consistent effort, self-belief, and purpose.

A Five-Day Experience

The five-day MANAGE NYPDP course was incredibly enlightening and life-changing. It provided a dynamic combination of knowledge, mentorship, interaction, and self-reflection and went well beyond traditional classroom instruction. By fusing theoretical understanding with practical applications, each session was carefully planned to broaden our perspective as future extension professionals. The program encouraged us to challenge preconceived notions, consider novel options, and relate our academic training to real-world development challenges in a setting where learning was not passive but highly engaging.

All things considered, the experience reinforced my professional identity and gave me newfound self-assurance and drive to make a significant contribution to the Agricultural Extension field.

Change in perspective

The training significantly transformed my perspective on Agricultural Extension. Before the programme, extension was often perceived within a narrow framework of advisory services and technology dissemination. However, the NYPDP helped me realize that extension today encompasses innovation, policy engagement, social inclusion, digital leadership, gender sensitivity, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The sessions demonstrated that extension professionals play a crucial role in shaping development outcomes at local, national, and global levels. This shift in perspective enabled me to view extension not merely as an academic discipline, but as a powerful platform for social transformation and systemic change, requiring adaptability, interdisciplinary thinking, and proactive leadership.

Atmosphere and Environment

The atmosphere at MANAGE during the NYPDP was exceptionally supportive, collaborative, and inspiring. From the moment the programme began, participants were made to feel welcomed, valued, and included. The interactive sessions, group activities, and open discussions created a safe and encouraging space for sharing ideas, experiences, and aspirations. Small yet thoughtful gestures, such as personalized arrangements and recognition of participants, fostered a strong sense of belonging. The overall environment promoted curiosity, confidence, and active participation, making the learning process both intellectually stimulating and emotionally enriching.



What I Appreciate

What I appreciated most about the NYPDP was the authenticity and relatability of the learning experience. The sessions were not delivered as one-way lectures but as meaningful conversations rooted in real-life experiences and professional journeys of the resource persons. Exposure visits, case examples, and personal narratives made the learning deeply contextual and relevant. The programme succeeded in balancing academic rigor with practical insights, ensuring that participants not only gained knowledge but also felt inspired, recognized, and motivated to pursue impactful careers in Agricultural Extension.

Peer Interactions and Networking

Peer interactions were one of the most valuable aspects of the programme. Engaging with fellow M.Sc. and Ph.D. scholars from diverse institutions across India provided a rich platform for exchanging ideas, experiences, and perspectives. These interactions fostered a strong sense of community, mutual learning, and emotional support. Beyond academic discussions, sharing aspirations, challenges, and career goals helped build lasting professional relationships and networks that are likely to support collaboration and growth well beyond the programme duration.



Most Significant Takeaway

My most significant takeaway from the NYPDP was the realization that the field of Agricultural Extension is continuously evolving, and as professionals, we must evolve alongside it. The programme reinforced the importance of proactive thinking, adaptability, and self-belief. Messages such as “Who stops you?” emphasized personal responsibility in shaping one’s career and impact. I emerged from the training with greater clarity, confidence, and a renewed commitment to contribute meaningfully to agricultural and rural development across the entire ecosystem.



Action plan

I plan to apply the knowledge and skills gained from the NYPDP by integrating robust research methodologies, Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks, and qualitative research tools into my future academic and professional work. The programme helped me understand the importance of capturing behavioural, social, and contextual dimensions alongside quantitative data. I also intend to adopt participatory and digital extension approaches to enhance stakeholder engagement and ensure evidence-based decision-making. This holistic approach will guide my future endeavours and enable me to address real-world challenges in agricultural extension more effectively.



The MANAGE NYPDP journey was a life-shaping and perspective-defining experience that transformed me from a learner into a confident, purpose-driven professional. It served as a launchpad that broadened my vision, strengthened my belief in the discipline of Agricultural Extension, and inspired me to pursue a career focused on meaningful impact and leadership in development.



Ms. Sethna.K. A

M.Sc. (Agricultural Extension Education)
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
kasetna01@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
<https://www.manage.gov.in/caeira/caeira.asp>