

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 86

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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.

 **SIDDHARTH B L**

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme



National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) on

**"New Competencies, Career Opportunities and
Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension"**

December 22-27, 2025

MANAGE



Each day of the NYPDP programme added a distinct layer to my academic understanding and professional orientation.

Day 1

The first day reframed my perception of Agricultural Extension by moving beyond traditional views of information dissemination. It emphasized Extension as a broad, interdisciplinary field with global relevance and diverse career possibilities. The sessions encouraged self-reflection, mindset development, and recognition of individual skill sets. The inspiring sessions by Dr. Saravanan Raj played a pivotal role in breaking common career-related misconceptions and reducing anxiety linked to limited professional outlooks. A major realization was that career aspirations are not confined to a single role, making self-awareness and adaptability essential.

Day 2

The second day highlighted the transformative role of digital technologies in extension services. Topics such as e-extension, mobile-based advisories, social media platforms, and virtual engagement tools demonstrated how technology can expand outreach, improve efficiency, and ensure inclusivity.

Day 3

On the third day, the focus shifted towards research and communication competencies. The session on the Delphi Technique, led by Dr. Paramveer Singh, provided a clear understanding of structured expert consultation, its stages, and its application in research and decision-making. storytelling session by Dr. Rahalya S was highly participatory and stimulated creativity, confidence, and clarity in expression.

The Monitoring and Evaluation session conducted by P. V. K. Sasidhar from IGNOU offered practical exposure, with the Focus Group Discussion serving as a major highlight. Participating in an FGD for the first time provided hands-on experience in planning, facilitation, participant engagement, and time management.

Day 4

The fourth day strengthened my understanding of qualitative research tools and documentation practices. Sessions led by Dr. Sreeram Vishnumoorthy (KAU) enhanced my research perspective, while Dr. Krithika Sundaram's session shed light on the expanding roles of extension professionals in NGOs, development agencies, and private enterprises. The emphasis on documentation, social research, leadership, policy engagement, and future competencies helped consolidate the learning gained throughout the programme. The concluding interaction with Dr. Saravanan Raj was deeply motivating, as his personal journey reinforced the belief that background or medium of education never limits potential, highlighting the power of perseverance, self-confidence, and purpose.



A Five-Day Experience



The five-day NYDPD training at MANAGE was an enriching and transformative experience that extended far beyond conventional classroom learning. It offered a balanced blend of knowledge acquisition, mentorship, interaction, and self-introspection. Each session was thoughtfully designed to integrate theoretical foundations with real-world applications, encouraging active participation rather than passive learning. The programme challenged existing assumptions, expanded professional horizons, and connected academic learning with practical development realities. Overall, it strengthened my professional identity and instilled renewed confidence and motivation to contribute meaningfully to the field of Agricultural Extension.

Change in Perspective

Absolutely, the programme brought about a profound shift in my understanding of Agricultural Extension. Prior to the training, extension was largely viewed as a mechanism for advisory services and technology transfer. The NYDPD broadened this outlook by presenting extension as a multifaceted domain encompassing innovation, policy involvement, digital leadership, gender responsiveness, entrepreneurship, and sustainability. The sessions clearly demonstrated the critical role of extension professionals in influencing development outcomes at various levels. This renewed perspective enabled me to recognize extension as a powerful instrument for social change and systemic transformation that demands interdisciplinary thinking, flexibility, and leadership.



Atmosphere and Environment

The learning environment at MANAGE during the NYPDP was highly encouraging, inclusive, and motivating. From the outset, participants were welcomed with warmth and respect, creating a positive atmosphere for learning. Interactive sessions, group exercises, and open discussions promoted free exchange of ideas and experiences. Thoughtful arrangements and recognition of participants contributed to a strong sense of belonging. The overall ambience nurtured curiosity, confidence, and collaboration, making the training both intellectually engaging and personally fulfilling.



Peer Interactions and Networking

Interactions with peers emerged as one of the most rewarding components of the programme. Engaging with M.Sc. and Ph.D. scholars from diverse institutions across the country facilitated the exchange of varied perspectives and experiences. These interactions fostered collective learning, emotional support, and a sense of academic community. Discussions extended beyond academics to include career aspirations and challenges, leading to the formation of meaningful professional networks that are likely to continue beyond the duration of the programme.



What I appreciate

The most commendable aspect of the NYPDP was the genuine and relatable approach to learning. Rather than one-directional lectures, the sessions evolved as interactive dialogues enriched by real-life experiences and professional journeys of the resource persons. Case studies, exposure visits, and personal narratives made the content practical and meaningful. The programme successfully maintained a balance between academic depth and practical relevance, ensuring that participants felt inspired, valued, and motivated to pursue impactful careers in Agricultural Extension.



Most Significant Takeaway

The most impactful takeaway from the NYPDP was the understanding that Agricultural Extension is a continuously evolving discipline, and professionals must grow alongside it. The programme emphasized the importance of adaptability, initiative, and self-confidence. Thought-provoking messages such as “Who stops you?” reinforced personal accountability in shaping one’s career path. I concluded the training with enhanced clarity, stronger self-belief, and a firm commitment to contributing effectively to agricultural and rural development.



Action plan

I intend to apply the insights gained from the NYPDP by incorporating advanced research methodologies, qualitative tools, and Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks into my academic and professional pursuits. The programme highlighted the importance of understanding behavioural and social dimensions alongside quantitative data. I also plan to utilize participatory approaches and digital extension strategies to improve stakeholder engagement and promote evidence-based decision-making. This integrated approach will guide my future work and help address real-world challenges in Agricultural Extension more effectively.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The MANAGE NYPDP journey was a defining experience that reshaped my perspective and strengthened my professional identity. It empowered me with clarity, confidence, and purpose, transforming me from a passive learner into a motivated professional committed to leadership and meaningful impact in Agricultural Extension.



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