

MANAGE NYPDP Diary No. 87

January 2026



National Young Professionals Development Program (NYPDP)

MANAGE-University Alliance for Advancing Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

Reflections That Cultivate Tomorrow's Agricultural Extension



Ms. Awentia A

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

 [Awentia Arivazhagan](#)

Key Learnings from Each Day of the Programme

The training gave me a deeper understanding of how agricultural extension is expanding beyond its traditional advisory role. It highlighted emerging research priorities and the need for new skills such as research methodology, gender mainstreaming, policy engagement, and livelihood development. Discussions on curriculum gaps, career opportunities, and professional competencies helped me realise that future extension professionals must combine knowledge from multiple disciplines and adopt evidence-based approaches to work effectively.

The programme began with an inspiring message from Dr Saravanan Raj, who encouraged participants to take initiative and actively create their own professional opportunities. His words felt like a compass, helping me find direction and reminding me that growth in agricultural extension depends on how boldly we choose our path. This made me reflect on the importance of being self-motivated and proactive in shaping my professional journey.

The sessions on Monitoring and Evaluation further reshaped my thinking by showing that M&E is much more than a routine requirement. It is a powerful tool for learning, accountability, and improving programmes.

Dr P. V. K. Sasidhar's session strengthened my understanding of how M&E supports impact assessment and better decision-making.

In addition, Dr Sreeram Vishnu's session on Social Network Analysis and Textometry introduced analytical tools that I found highly relevant and useful for my present and future research interests.



A Five-Day Experience

The MANAGE NYPDP programme marked a profound shift in my professional life. It united deep knowledge building, expert guidance, and lasting networks in an electrifying way. Instead of standard lectures, it fostered lively debates that reshaped viewpoints and sparked true calling.

“Transformation begins when learning moves beyond information and becomes intention.”

Every module was carefully designed to elevate us as rising stars in agricultural extension. We gained vital new skills, hands-on knowledge, and sharp awareness of today's extension hurdles. It pushed us to absorb, analyse deeply, respond wisely, and connect our work to broader community goals.

“True learning does not merely add knowledge—it reshapes how we see, think, and serve.”

More than skill-building, MANAGE NYPDP became a voyage of personal insight and career evolution. It built self-assurance, clarified mission, and cemented our duty as innovators in the agricultural extension landscape.

“When learning transforms the learner, impact naturally follows.”

Ultimately, it exemplifies effective development—not only honing abilities, but cultivating foresight, principles, and dedication to enduring agricultural progress.

“This was not just training—it was a turning point.”

Change in Perspective

The programme facilitated a significant shift in my understanding of Agricultural Extension. I realized that Agricultural Extension is no longer limited to traditional advisory functions; rather, it has evolved into a comprehensive and interdisciplinary domain. It now encompasses innovation, policy engagement, social inclusion, digital leadership, and sustainability. This training broadened my perspective by transforming my perception of extension from a subject of academic study to a strategic platform for social transformation and inclusive rural development.

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

One of the training's most treasured moments was gathering with passionate M.Sc. and PhD scholars from across India. We didn't just swap ideas; we poured out personal stories, shared joyful laughter, dreamed big together, and wove a beautiful tapestry of community.

These heartwarming bonds blossomed into something truly magical—lifelong friendships and professional alliances that wrap around your heart like a warm embrace. They whisper promises of unwavering support, lighting your path through every challenge ahead.



What I appreciate

Realistic and Relatable Approach

The standout feature was the training's authentic, hands-on style, far surpassing traditional classroom methods. Interactive conversations replaced one-way lectures, enabling participants to tie concepts directly to their professional experiences.

Expert Insights and Personal Stories

Field experts shared real-world anecdotes, lending credibility and depth to every session. This made learning feel genuine and immediately applicable.

Bridging Theory and Practice

Exposure visits and practical examples brought ideas to life, deepening comprehension and relevance.

Holistic Focus on Growth

Beyond knowledge, the program inspired motivation, built professional identity, and made participants feel valued and empowered to excel in agricultural extension.



Perfect Cultural Close

The day ended with a delightful Hyderabad exploration, blending the city's rich history, culture, and tech vibe with intensive learning for a well-rounded experience.



Action plan

After this training, I plan to use smart research methods and tracking tools in my studies on smart farming. I want to combine numbers with real farmers' stories, especially by understanding their behaviour, which is very important in agricultural extension. As an extensionist, I now feel confident that we can stand alongside scientists in designing studies that truly address farmers' real needs, not just academic questions.

From now on, I want to focus on action-oriented research—experiments, field projects, and practical studies that create real change in people's lives. I no longer want research to be only for earning a degree, but for making a meaningful impact. I also aim to keep learning by actively participating in seminars, trainings, and workshops whenever possible. I strongly believe in the core principle of extension: teaching people how to think, not what to think. This curious, bold, and practical mindset will guide my journey ahead.



My MANAGE NYPDP Journey

The five days at MANAGE–NYPDP transformed me from a learner into someone ready to take responsibility in agricultural extension. It was more than a training programme—it felt like a starting point for my future. I joined with expectations, but I left with clarity, confidence, and a strong sense of purpose to make a real difference in the field.

Through expert sessions, field exposure, and peer learning, my perspective expanded and my motivation grew stronger. This programme gave me direction, renewed energy, and belief in my role as an extension professional. I am truly grateful for this experience, which will remain a strong foundation for my academic and professional journey ahead.

National Young Professionals Development Programme (NYPDP) on "New Competencies, Career Opportunities and Research Priorities in Agricultural Extension"

December 22-27, 2025

MANAGE



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(An Autonomous organization of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India)

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