



Produce quality irrigated rice

Land preparation

- Plant on soil that retains moisture. Test it by picking a handful of moist soil and creating a ball. It will keep its shape; if not, your soil is not suitable for lowland rice.
- Remove large stones, tree branches and logs from the field
- Do not burn in the fields; it destroys organic matter, makes erosion easier and kills worms that maintain soil fertility
- Plough in late May to early June
- Plough across the slope and not up and down
- Make a bund around the field to trap water
- Apply 20 bags per acre of GHC6 fertilizer
- If you apply compost at this stage do not apply fertilizer at planting
- Do not re-plough after applying compost.

NOTE: You need regular rainfall throughout the growing season

Seed preparation

- Use improved, certified seeds (20kg/acre for dibbling and 25kg/acre for drilling)
- For deep valley fields, consider KATANGA or Tox3107 rice varieties which mature in 145 days
- For fields outside deep valleys, consider GR18 or Nabogu that mature in 130 days, or Gbewaa which matures in 115 days
- Soak seed in water overnight
- Add seed treatment to the water and mix
- Drain water the next morning, carefully disposing the water away from a water supply
- Dry seeds for an hour under a shade
- Plant within 24 hours

Planting

- Plant in rows for maximum yield; it also makes it easier to weed, add fertilizer, and harvest
- Use a guide line and tie knots every 20 cm and space 20 cm between rows– distance from the middle finger to thumb
- Use a stick to make holes. Plant 3-5 seeds in each hole
- Thin rice 2 weeks after emergence
- Alternatively, to save time, drill using a rope pulled through the soil. No thinning is needed
- Plant most varieties by the 15th July with the exception of Digang, which matures in 110 days and can be planted until the end of July
- Spray with pre-emergence herbicide a day or two after planting
- Spray on moist soil or early in the morning for effective absorption of the herbicide
- Weed 2 weeks after seed emergence if you don't apply pre-emergence herbicide. Alternatively, apply post-emergence herbicide when the weeds are at the 2 or 3 leaf stage
- To make sure weeds don't re-grow, expose the roots to the sun or tie weed into a knot

Fertilizer application

- Apply 2 bags per acre of NPK 3 weeks after planting when the soil is moist to make absorption easier
- Place 1 heaped bottle top crown of NPK in a hole between 4 plants.
- Check that the bunds are not broken
- Weed your field at 5-6 weeks after emergence
- Apply ½ a bag of Sulphate of ammonia (Sulfan) per acre, or ¼ bag of urea per acre at 7 weeks after emergence
- Repeat the same amounts of fertilizer at 9 weeks after emergence
- Remove any rice plant that does not look like the variety you planted. Do this from emergence to harvesting

Harvesting

- Break the bunds to drain water from the field 2 weeks after flowering
- Harvest your rice 30 days after flowering, when 85% of the panicles change to brown colour
- Thresh on a tarpaulin within 4 days of harvest to avoid mixing stones with the grains
- To get a tarpaulin, acquire 5 poly sacks (size 5), spilt open them and sew them together
- Don't burn the straw after threshing; use it for animal feed or mulch
- Bag and store your rice at 12% moisture content or less on pallets or a raised platform from the ground
- Dry your rice to 14% moisture content when milling immediately. If moisture content of your rice is 12% or less, parboil before milling

NOTE: To be a successful rice farmer

- Use improved seeds, fertilizer, and organic matter to increase yield
- Apply the right fertilizer, at the right rate at the right time
- Following these tips can increase yield to 20-25 bags per acre of high quality rice

Working in partnership to create down-to-earth messages on integrated soil fertility management