1. IMPROVED VARIETIES
Boldgrain, Uttam, Deepak, Nuinui & Star are the recommended varieties.

They are:-
• Short statured - Do not lodge (fall over)
• Early maturing (110-130 days)
• Respond to fertilizers (high yield)
• Not sensitive to day length
• Long slender grains
• Good grain quality (better prices)
• Hard fluffy rice on cooking
• High yielding
• Good wetland rice varieties.

2. FOR HIGH YIELDS
• Use improve varieties
• Use good cleaned seeds
• Prepare field well
• Follow good cultivation practices
• Control pests and diseases
• Control weeds

3. GOOD & CLEAN SEED
Use seeds that are:-
• Pure
• Uniform-large seeds
• Good germination
• Free from weed seeds
• Free from seed-borne diseases and pests
• Low moisture content

4. GOOD FIELD PREPARATION
Good tilth up to 15-20 cm deep for:
• Better weed control
• Better rotting of weeds and trash
• Better water control
• Easier puddling and leveling.
• Even plant growth

A. Rain fed
• First ploughing in October/November
• Followed by 1 or 2 harrowing, another plough & harrowing
• Leveled and puddle
B. Irrigated

5. NURSERY AND SEEDING

A. For Transplanting seed Bed.
• Prepare fine seedbed near water source and near to the planting site.
• Seed bed area 1/20th (500m²) equivalent to the area to main paddy field to be planted.
• Prepare 1-1.5 metre wide raised nursery beds of any convenient length with provision of drains of 30cm width between beds for good management.
• Sow the sprouted seeds on the nursery beds using a seed rate of 30-35kg/ha
• Apply adequate fertilizer with basal P and K and top dressed with N if soils are poor.
• Protect the seedlings from insect pests.
• Uproot and transplant seedlings in 3-4 weeks.

Sprouted seed method
• Immerse rice bag in water for 24 hours
• Remove bag from water and cover with rice straw for 38-48hrs.
• Turn bag once or twice and keep it wet during the period
• Remove sprouted seed from bag and sow in prepared seed bed.

B. For Broadcasting
• Prepare the land well with 15-20cm deep in dry conditions.
• Allow water in the field and puddle the field twice followed by perfect leveling
• Sow sprouted seeds at a rate of 70 - 80kg per hectare.

6. GOOD CULTIVATION PRACTICES
• Maintain water level for weed control (3cm-5cm)
• Hand weed when necessary
• Apply fertilizer at correct time-and correct dozes.
• Look out for pests and disease where necessary use chemicals for weeds, pests and diseases.

7. (a) FERTILIZERS FOR TRANSPLANTED RICE (1 ha)
For the Field:-
- 2.5kg super phosphate as basal at land preparation and 1.0kg Urea after one week of germination.

For seed bed
- 2.5kg super phosphate as basal at land preparation

(b) FERTILIZERS FOR BROADCAST RICE (1 ha)
• At final puddling apply 45.5kg of super phosphate and 22.5kg of potash.
• On 3 to 4 week old crop, top dress with 22.5kg of urea.
• At panicle initiation stage (50 to 65 days from seeding) apply 22.5 kg of urea.
8. **WEED CONTROL**

   Control weeds with:
   - Proper land preparation
   - Proper water control
   - Hand weeding
   - Use of Weedicides

9. **CHEMICAL CONTROL**

   1. Broad leaves weeds and sedges – Apply MCPA 2.82 litres/ha or 56 – 85ml per 13.5 litres water using knapsack. Spray 4 weeks after transplanting and before booting for transplanted and 6 weeks after germination and before booting stage for drilled or broadcasted rice.

   2. Grass weeds - STAM F.3.4-9.83-11.21 litres/ha on broadcast rice 3 to 4 leaf stages. SATURN-50% a.i 5.61 litres/ha- for direct seeded under irrigation and 5.61 – 8.42 litres/ha for transplanted rice. Spray 3-7 days after transplanting.
   - Apply on fine weather. Flood field after 2-3 days. PROPAL at a rate of 340 mls per 15 litres of water when using knapsack, 30 knapsack per hectare or 10-11.5 litres per hectare. Using mist blower, 510 mls per 10 litres of water or 17 litres per hectare. Drain field properly and spray when grasses are 4-5 leaf stage.

   3. All weeds- Basagran, spray 7.01-8.42 litres/ha. Field should be drained 24 hours before applying.

10. **DISEASE CONTROL**

    No serious rice disease in Fiji.

11. **SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER**

    - With improved varieties 2 crops a year can be harvested.
    - Traditional varieties are not suitable for double cropping.
    - Fine grain varieties fetch better prices in the market.
    - For maximum yields from improved varieties, maintained high levels of management.

12. **HARVESTING**

    - Harvest when it is about 80% mature
    - Thresh immediately after harvest to maintain grain quality
    - Dry immediately after threshing to 14% moisture levels.

13. **STORAGE**

    - Fill in clean bags
    - Keep in well aerated cool and dry place
    - Stack bags on planks away from walls
    - Chemicals can be used to control gain moth and rice weevil. Drying may also help often.

14. **GROSS MARGIN**

    a) Transplanted - $1500 - $1800 per hectare
    b) Broadcasted - $1100 - $1300 per hectare