Rice is the staple food of over half the world population. Rice is normally grown as an annual plant, although in tropical areas it can survive as a perennial crop and can produce a ratoon crop for up to 30 years. The rice plant can grow to 1 to 1.8 m tall, occasionally more depending on the variety and soil fertility. Since its origin, the spread of rice cultivation is extensive and rice is now being grown wherever water supply is adequate and ambient temperature are suitable. The rice grain is covered with a woody husk or hull, which is indigestible and is to be removed in the first step during processing for making the rice edible. Rice cultivation is well suited to countries and regions with low labor costs and high rainfall, as it is labor intensive to cultivate and requires ample water. Rice can be grown practically anywhere, even on a steep hill or mountain. The traditional method for cultivating rice is flooding the fields while, or after, setting the young seedlings. This simple method requires sound planning and servicing of the water damming and channeling, but reduces the growth of less robust weed and pest plants that have no submerged growth state, and deters vermin. While flooding is not mandatory for the cultivation of rice, all other methods of irrigation require higher effort in weed and pest control during growth periods and a different approach for fertilizing the soil. Drying is an essential step in the processing and preservation of paddy; it is the process that reduces grain moisture content to a safe level for storage. Milling is a crucial step in post production of rice. The basic objective of a rice milling system is to remove the husk and the bran layers, and produce an edible, white rice kernel that is sufficiently milled and free of impurities. India is the second largest rice producing country of the world after China. India also grows some of the finest quality aromatic rice of which basmati is the most high quality rice. This book basically deals with history, origin and antiquity of rice, seed rice and seed production, harvest and post harvest operations, water management practices for rice, diseases and pests of rice and their control, application of biotechnology in aromatic rice improvement, traditional methods of parboiling, modernization of parboiling process, solvent extractive rice milling, general types of quick cooking rice processes, dry milled rice products in brewing, breakfast cereals, rice flakes, puffed rice, rice in multi grain cereals etc.

The present book contains cultivation and processing of rice in various ways. The book is very resourceful for the entrepreneurs, technocrats, research scholars etc.

Contents
CHAPTER 1
HISTORY, ORIGIN AND ANTIQUITY OF RICE
Antiquity
Species Ancestral To Rice
Genetic Process Involved In Domestication
Diversification and Spread
CHAPTER 2
BREEDING
Period of Inter-Racial Hybridization Between Japonicas and Indicas
Period of Inter-Racial Hybridization Between Semi-Dwarf Taiwanese Types/Derivatives and Indicas
Breeding Upland Rices With Tolerance To Drought
Breeding for Water-Logged and Lowland Conditions
Deep Water Conditions
Flood Resistance
Breeding for Insect Resistance
Breeding for Resistance
Biotype Variation
Breeding for Resistance
Breeding for Disease Resistance
Variability In Pyricularia Oryzae
Resistance Breeding
Rice Tungro Virus-Disease (Insect Vector: Nephotettix Virescens)
Resistance Breeding
Breeding for Multiple Resistance
Breeding for Saline Conditions
Screening Techniques
Breeding for High Altitude Areas
Quality Breeding
Breeding for Higher Protein Content In Rice
Breeding High-Yielding, Scented Rice Varieties
Other Methods
Summing Up
CHAPTER 3
SOILS-THEIR CLASSIFICATION AND AGRO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Classification and Distribution
The Soils on Which Rice Is Grown In India and Their Classification
Distribution of Various Kinds of Soils In India
The Physical, Chemical and Agronomic Characteristics of Rice Soils
The Special Requirements of The Rice Crop
Physical Properties of Rice Soils
Agronomic Characteristics of Rice Soils
Measures Needed for Realizing The Rice-Production Potential of The Major Soil Groups of The Various States
CHAPTER 4
SEED RICE AND SEED PRODUCTION
Sources of Pure Seed
Classes of Seed
Seed Rice Culture
The Control of Red Rice
The Time and Method of Harvesting Seed Rice
Processing and Storing Seed Rice
Drying, Cleaning and Grading
Storing Seed Rice
CHAPTER 5
RICE CULTURE
Crop Rotations
Cropped Land Structure
The Krasnodar Territory
The Don Piver and Cis-Caspian Lowland
The Ussr Far East
The Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Southern Kazakhstan
Intensified Cropping Systems
Fallowing
Catch-Crops
Land Preparation
Basic Soil Treatment
Tilling Grassland for Rice
Tilling Land for Fallow-Sown Crops
Preparing Seedbed for Rice
Current Land-Smoothing or Planing
Preparing Seedbed for Early and Deep Planting of Rice
Wet or Underwater Levelling
Minimum Tillage for Rice
Fertilization
Mineral Nutrients and Sources
Soil Liming
Fertilization Practices
Seed and Seeding
Classification of Seed
Pre-Plant Treatment of Seed
Rate of Seeding
Method of Seeding
Water Management
Systems of Water Management
Managing Water for Nonchemical Weed Control
Managing Water for Chemical Weed Control
Soil Herbicides
Managing Water for Saline Soils
Managing Water for Insect and Pest Control
Managing Water for Early and Deep-Seeded Rice
Crop Tending
CHAPTER 6
HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST OPERATIONS
Draining for The Harvest
Pre-Harvest Chemical Drying
Pre-Harvest Operations
Harvesting Rice
Grain Moisture Content
Post-Harvest Operations
CHAPTER 7
WEEDS AND THEIR CONTROL
Weed Control Practices
Nonchemical Weed Control
Chemical Weed Control
CHAPTER 8
PEST PROFILE AND INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN AROMATIC RICES
Introduction
Diseases
Stem Rot
Narrow Brown Leaf Spot
Insect Pests
Integrated Pest Management
Future Outlook
CHAPTER 9
WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR RICE
The Effect of Land Submergence on The Growth and Yield of Rice
The Depth of Submergence
Effect of Partial Submergence
Water Requirement of The Rice Crop
Drainage Requirement of The Rice Crop
Water-Management Practices for Salt-Affected Areas
Effective Rainfall
CHAPTER 10
DISEASES AND PESTS OF RICE AND THEIR CONTROL
Rice Diseases
Pests of Rice
Environmental Considerations In Rice Production
CHAPTER 11
HYBRID BREEDING IN AROMATIC RICE
Introduction
Heterosis Breeding In Basmati Rice
Development of Basmati-Type Cms Lines
Restorer Breeding
Breeding Approaches
Quality Characteristics of Basmati Restorer Lines
Stability Analysis of Basmati Hybrids
Effects of Cytoplasm on Yield and Quality Traits
Basmati Hybrids Under Evaluation
Tagging of Fertility Restorer Gene (S) In Basmati Rice
Problems and Future Prospects
CHAPTER 12
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MOLECULAR BREEDING OF AROMATIC RICE
Introduction
Functional Genomics
Cloning Disease Resistant Genes
Molecular Analysis of Rice Genes
Production of Transgenic Rice Plants
Gene Silencing
Application of Biotechnology In Aromatic Rice Improvement In India
Diagnostics and Dna Fingerprinting
Marker Tagging of Individual Genes and Qtls
Future Prospects and Conclusion
General Types of Quick Cooking Rice Processes
The “Soak Boil Steam Dry” Methods
The Expanded Dry Pregelatinized Rice Methods
The Rolling or “Bumping” Treatment
Dry Heat Treatments
The Freeze Thaw Process
Gun Puffing
Freeze Drying
Chemical Treatments
Combinations of Methods
Miscellaneous Processes
Conclusion
CHAPTER 20
RICE IN BREWING
Manufacture of Beer
Adjuncts In Brewing
Dry Milled Rice Products In Brewing
Malted Rice In Brewing
Specifications for Brewer’s Rice
Effects on Beer Manufacture and Quality of Using Rice
As Adjunct
Problems In Using Rice As Adjunct
Differentiation Between All Malt and Malt Adjunct Beers
Summary
CHAPTER 21
RICE BREAKFAST CEREALS AND INFANT FOODS
Breakfast Cereals
Rice Flakes
Puffed Rice
Oven Puffed Rice Cereal
Shredded Rice Cereal
Rice In Multi Grain Cereals
Product and Ingredient Characteristics
Enrichment
Packaging
Areas for Further Research
Rice In Infant Foods
Precooked Infant Rice Cereal
Nutritive Value of Rice Cereal
Formulated Baby Foods
Inspection of Raw Material and Finished Goods
Acknowledgments

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