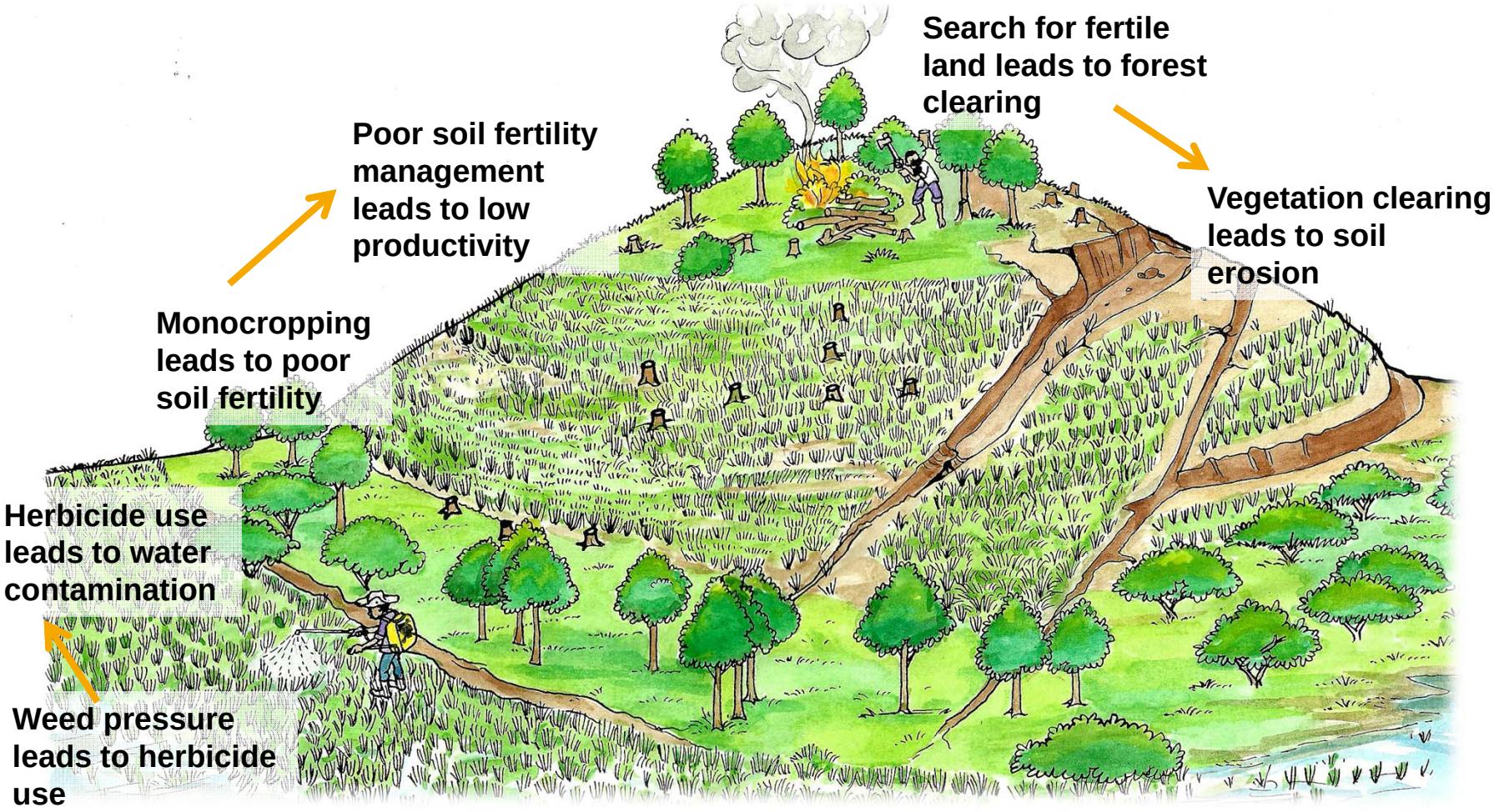
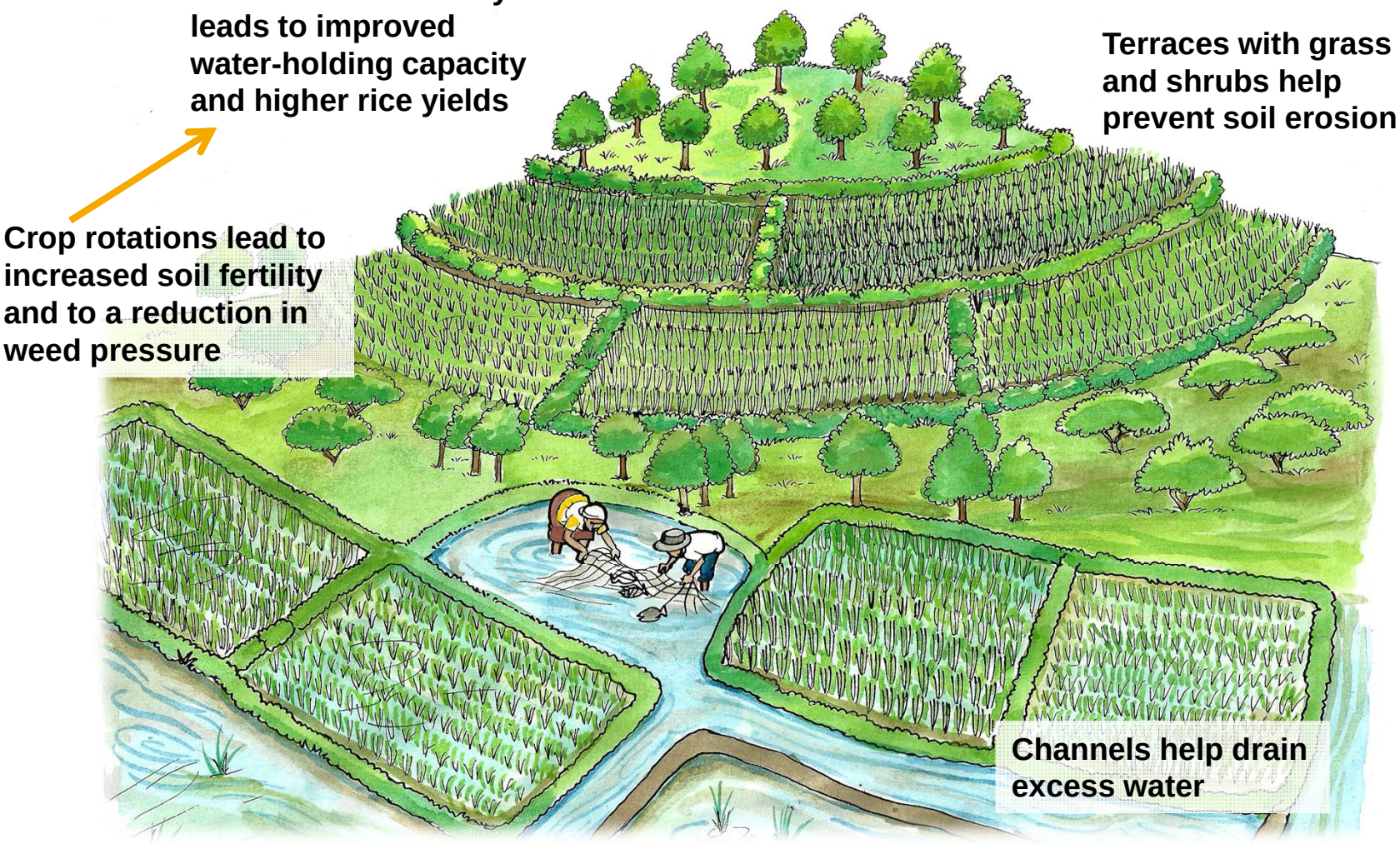
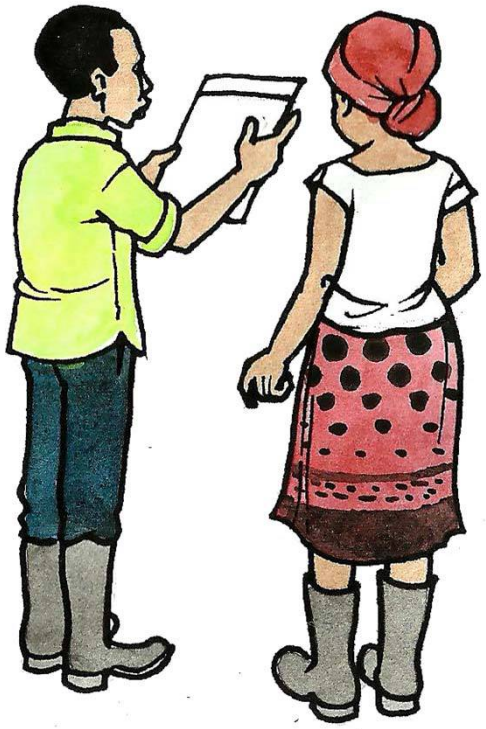
Poor management practices in rice production



Improved management of rice production

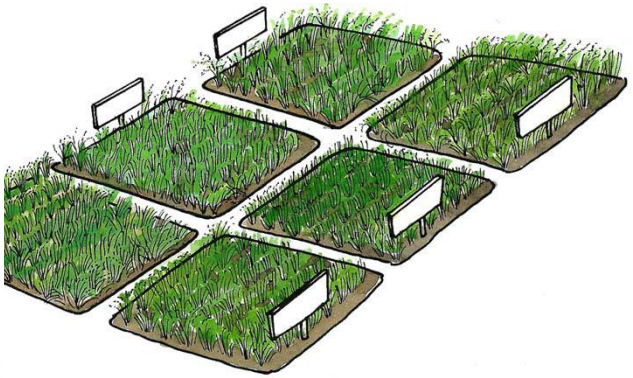


Selecting varieties for rice production



Criteria:

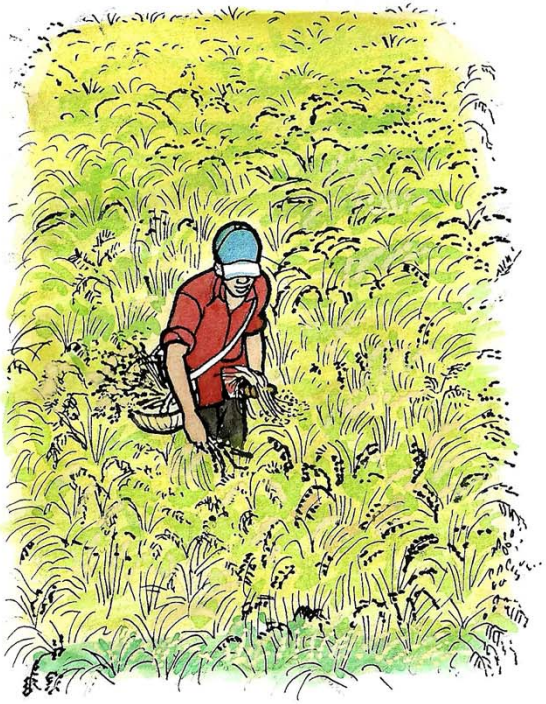
1. Upland or lowland?
2. Tested locally?
3. Re-usable seeds?
4. Good yields?



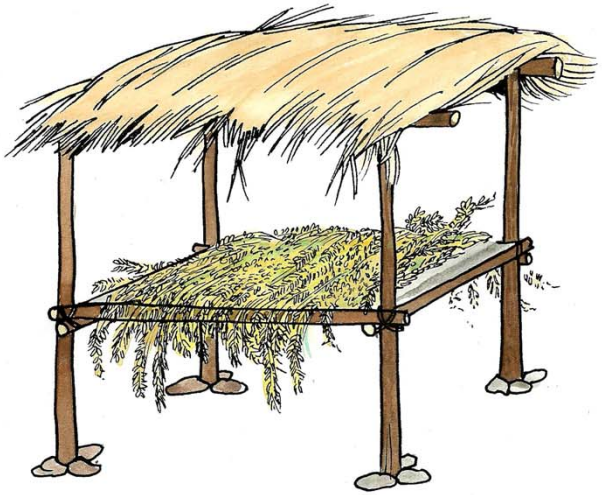
Seed production process of rice

1. Seed selection

Select only fully mature, uniform, healthy and disease free panicles.



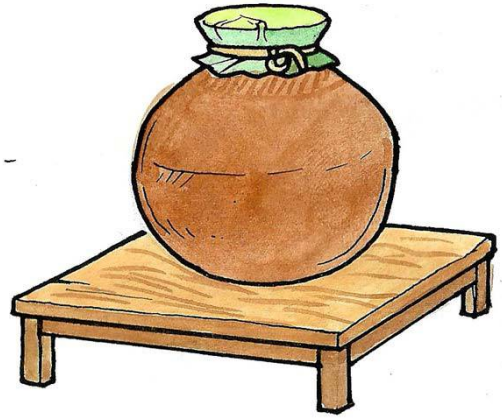
2. Drying



Dry under shade, protected from direct sun.

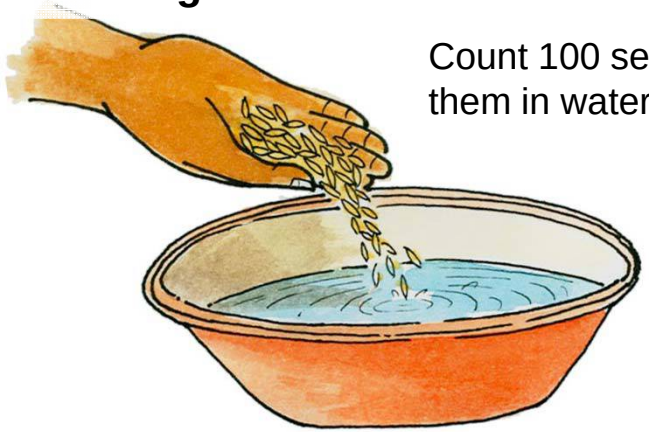
3. Storage

Store seeds in a cool, dry place in an airtight container, e.g. a clay pot or tin.



Determining seed viability

1. Soaking



Count 100 seeds and soak them in water for 24 hours.

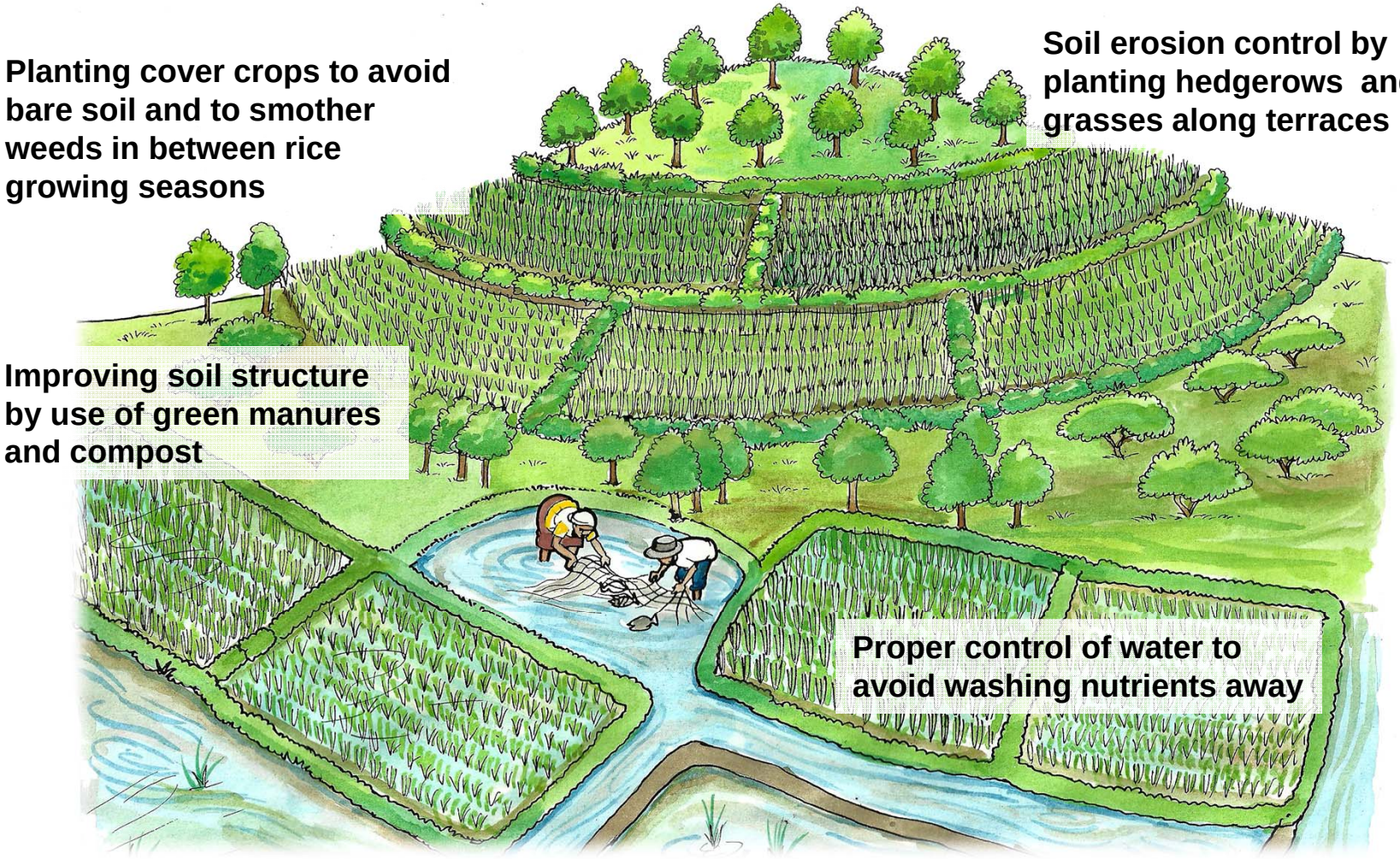
2. Incubate

Wrap the seeds in a moist paper or cloth and incubate for 2 days.

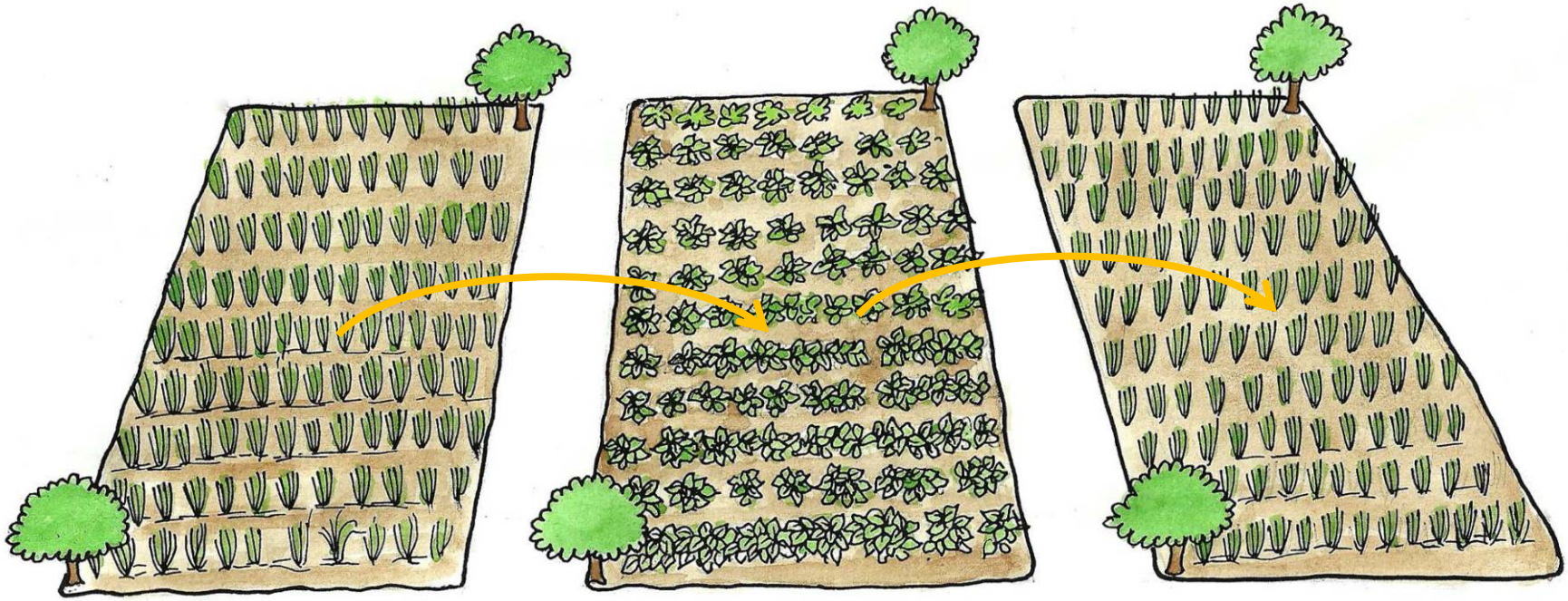
3. Count germinated seeds

Count all germinated seeds and express the number in percent of 100.

Soil conservation strategies



Diversification strategies in lowland rice systems



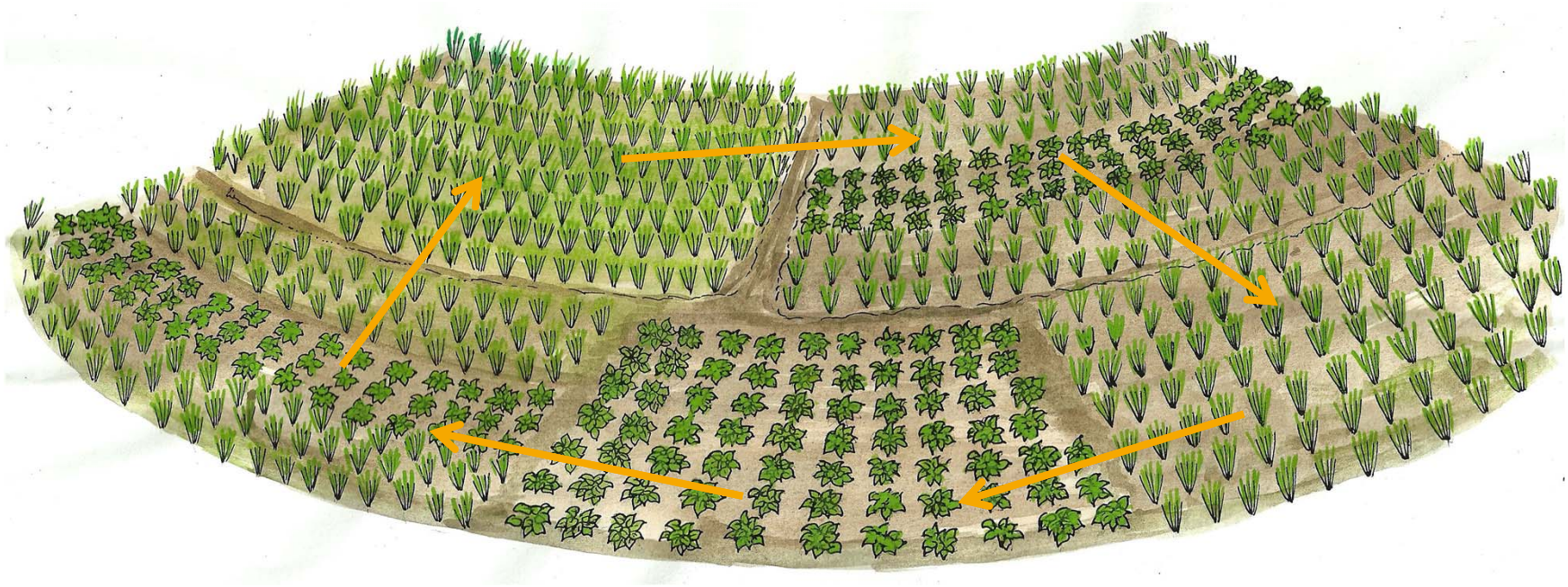
1st season: Rice crop

Legume green manure between cropping seasons

2nd season: Rice crop

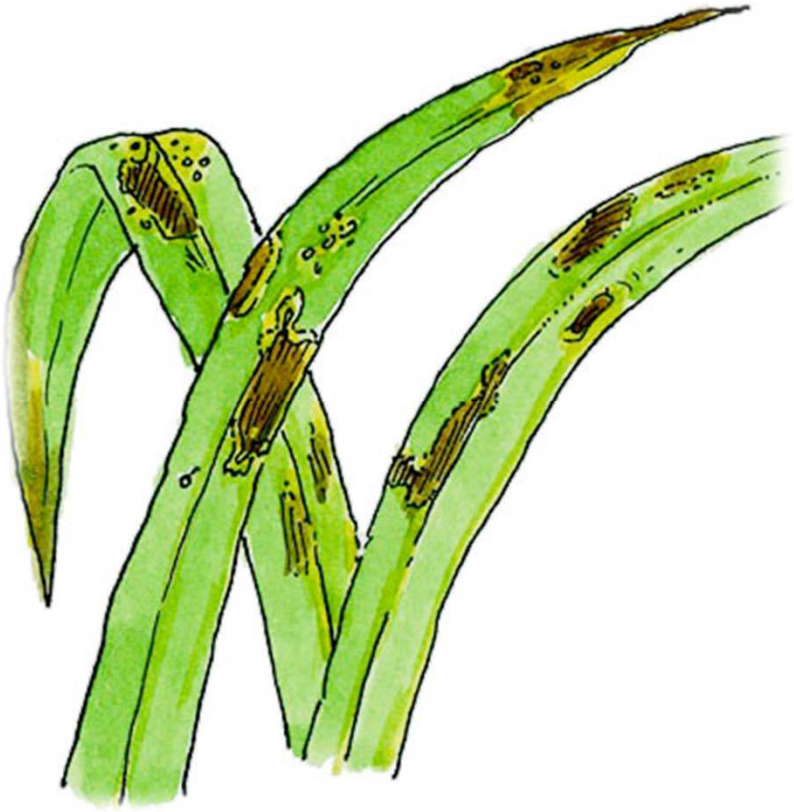
Diversification strategies in upland rice systems

Crop rotation and intercropping with leguminous crops or green manures



Rice blast on leaves and panicles

Leaf blast



Panicle blast

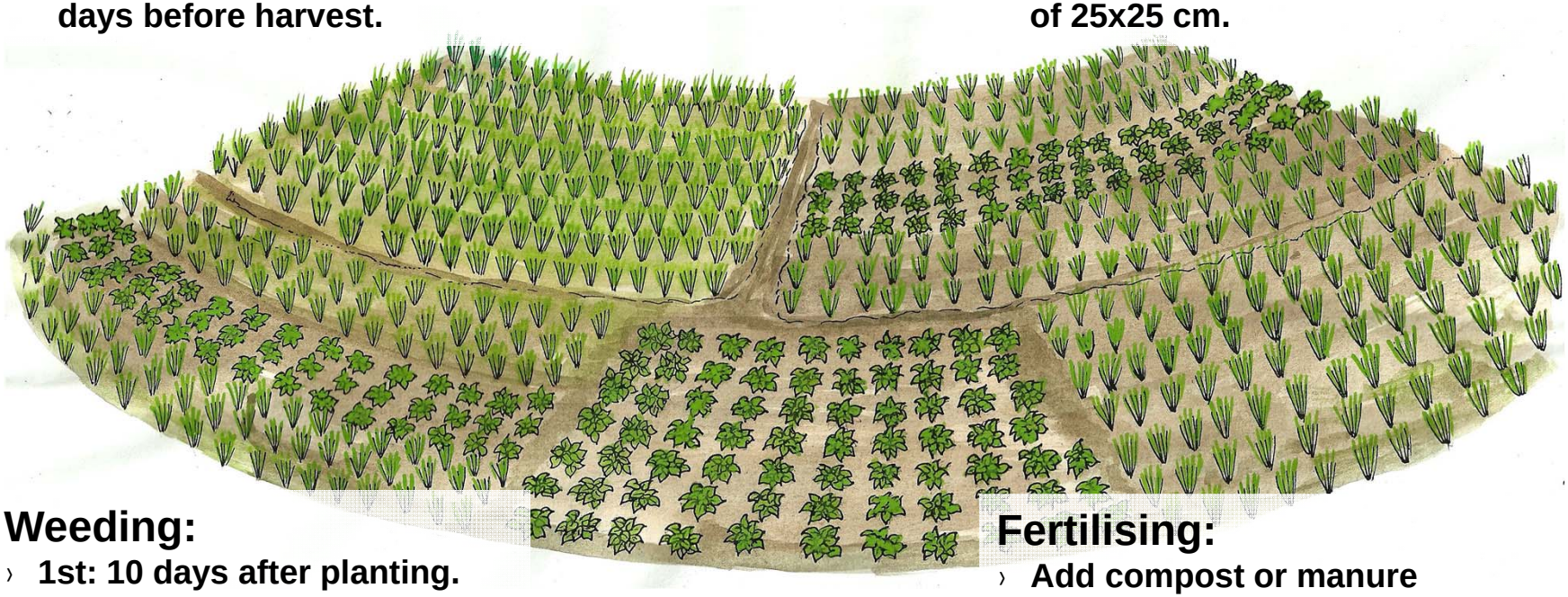
The SRI approach in Madagascar

Watering:

- Keep the soil moist, but not wet until flowering.
- Do not add water the last 25 days before harvest.

Planting:

- Transplant seedlings when still young (8 to 12 days old).
- Plant in a square grid pattern of 25x25 cm.



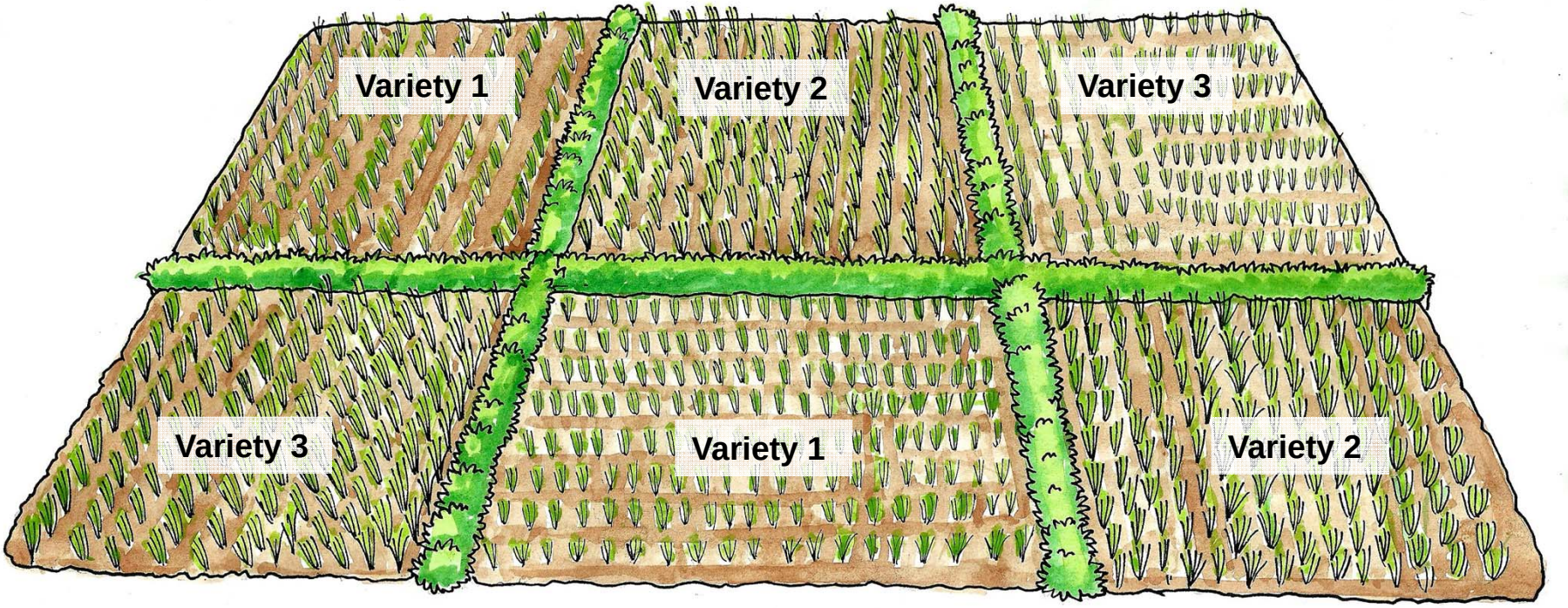
Weeding:

- 1st: 10 days after planting.
- 2nd: within 2 weeks after 1st
- Additionally: 1 to 2 times before flowering.

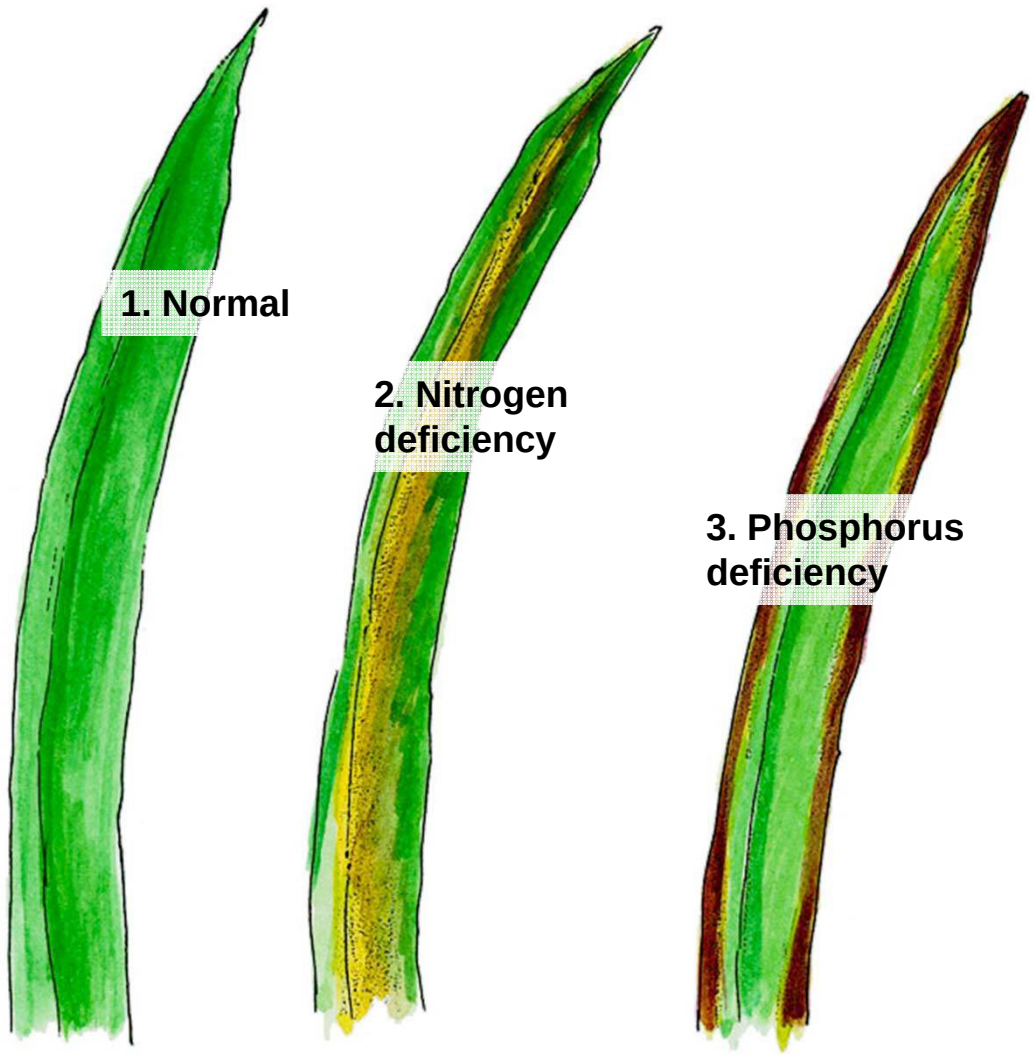
Fertilising:

- Add compost or manure whenever possible to increase nutrient levels.

Mosaic pattern:different rice varieties at different growth stages



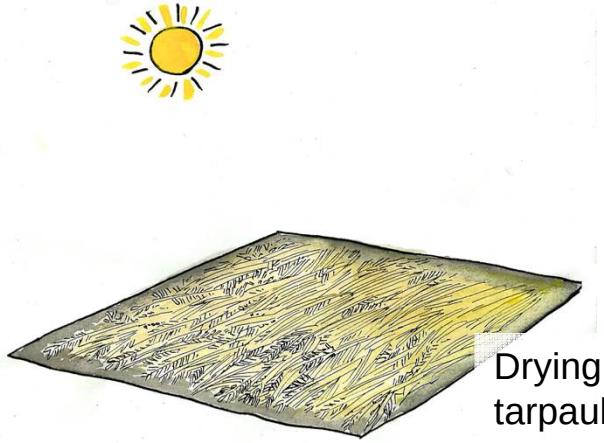
Rice leaves at various stages of health



Postharvest handling process of rice

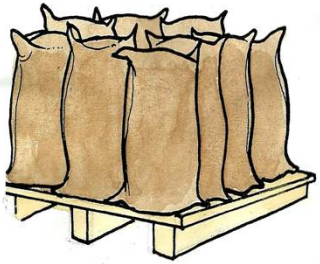
1. Harvesting

2. Drying

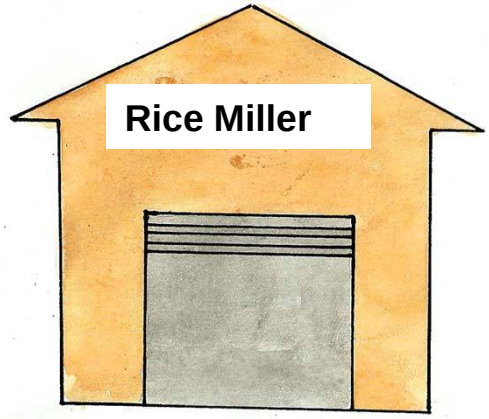


Drying on a tarpauline or mat

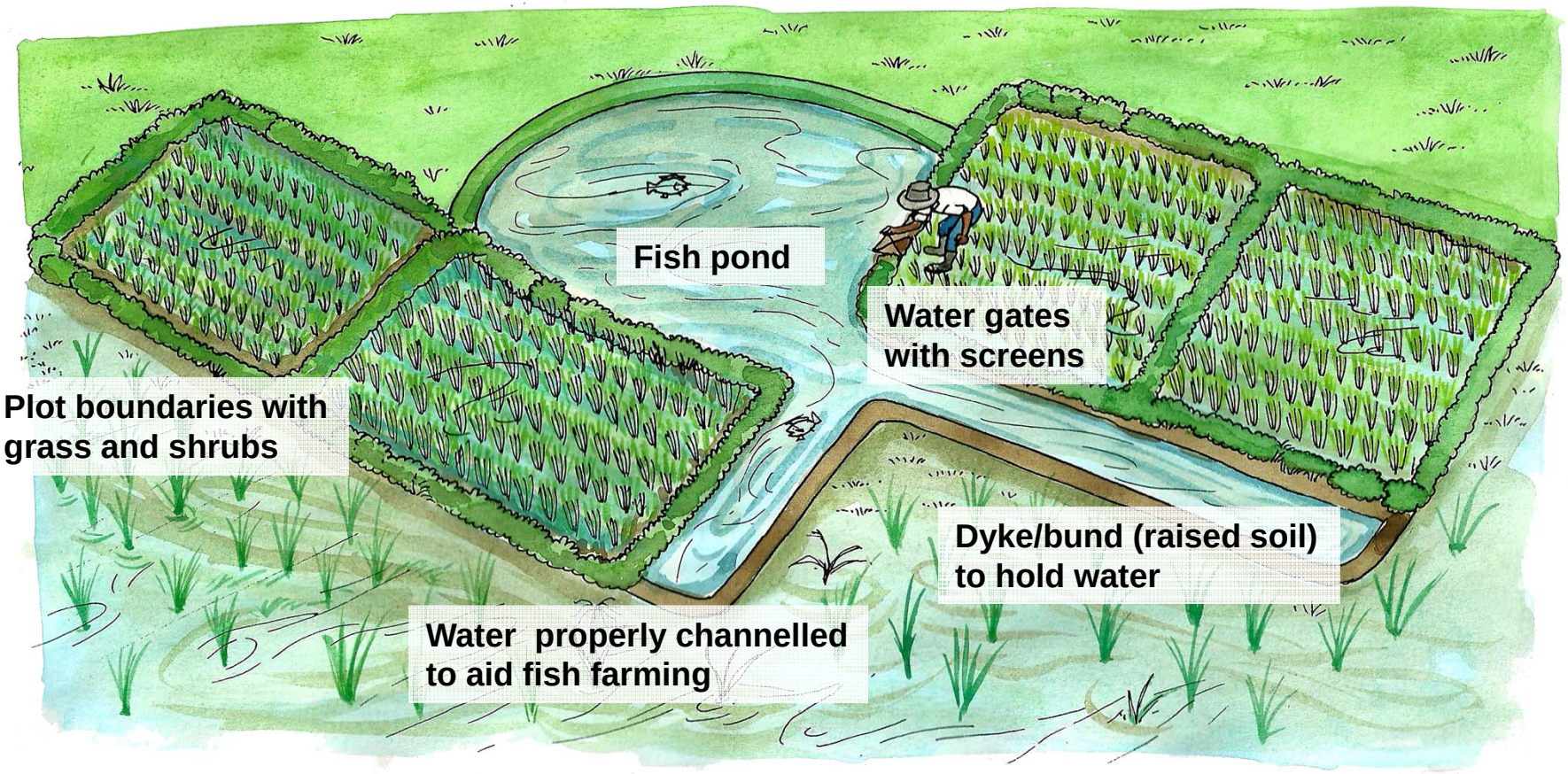
3. Threshing and packing



4. Milling and storage/selling



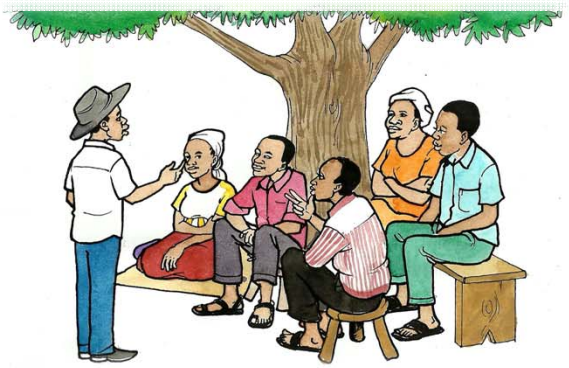
Rice-fish system



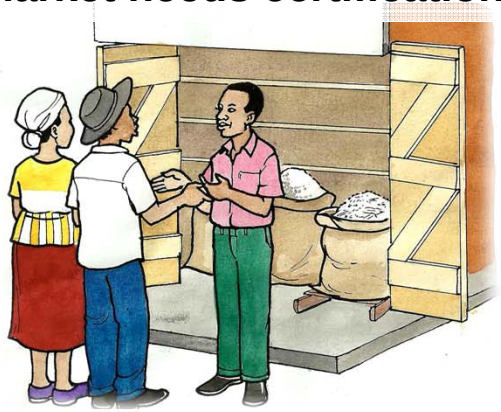
Procedures for organic certification of rice

1. Implement organic requirements

2. Mobilise other farmers

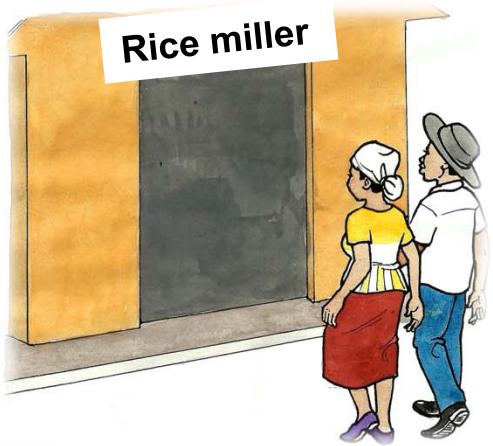


3. Find out whether the market needs certification



If the answer is YES, proceed to 4 and 5, if NO, then proceed to organise selling

4. Find a milling facility



5. Contact a certification body