



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Reports 2018-2023



**PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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List of Acronyms

- FJD - Fijian Dollar
- IFRS - International Finance Reporting Standard
- iTLTB - iTaukei Land Trust Board
- MoAWSI - Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry
- MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
- NCDs - Non-Communicable Disease
- SDG - Sustainable Development Goal

Chairperson's Foreword

The Standing Committee on Economic Affairs is pleased to submit to Parliament the Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Reports 2018-2023.

Fiji Rice is important to Fiji because it strengthens national food security by producing locally grown rice, provides a guaranteed market and stable income for farmers, supports rural communities through milling, and helps reduce reliance on imported rice. The company also partners with the government through disbursement of subsidies, mechanization, and climate-resilient initiatives, making it a key contributor to Fiji's economic stability and long-term agricultural development.

Fiji remains heavily dependent on imported rice, bringing in approximately 52,000 metric tonnes annually, valued at around FJD \$63 million, due to limited domestic production capacity and a national self-sufficiency rate of only 20%. In 2022, local production reached just 10,000 tonnes, underscoring the substantial supply gap that must be met through imports. The 2023 and 2022 Annual Reports highlight this dependency as a central challenge, emphasising the urgent need to expand local production and reduce the \$63 million import bill through targeted government support and sector reforms. The 2021 report reiterates this national priority but provides no additional import data.

To gather more information regarding Fiji Rice Pte Ltd 2018-2023 Annual Reports the Committee undertook site visit to the Northern Division from 3rd-5th March 2026. The Committee engaged directly with Fiji Rice, Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry (MoAWSI) and farmers in Macuata, Bua and Cakaudrove. As Fiji Rice Ltd remains responsible solely for milling, these on-the-ground observations provided valuable insight into the broader environment in which operations function and the challenges affecting the entire rice value chain.

The site visit confirmed that Fiji Rice Ltd continues to operate under significant financial constrain. The company is currently insolvent and relies heavily on government grants to sustain milling operations. While these grants are essential for continuity, the visit highlighted the urgent need for a forward-looking strategy that strengthens production efficiency and overall financial viability. Establishing measurable production targets across the rice value chain including farm production and milling throughput was identified as an important step in guiding future planning.

The Committee also observed the pressing need for investment and modernization. Fiji Rice's aging milling and drying facilities require upgrading to improve output quality, reduce operational losses, and support national food security objectives. Engagement with the private sector emerged as a critical area of opportunity, offering potential for investment, technology transfer, and expanded market access.

enable more accurate production forecasts and informed decision-making at both operational and policy levels.

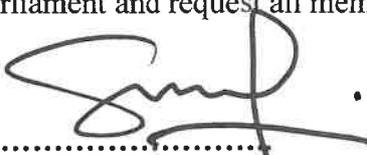
Another key finding from the site visit was the large amount of arable land that remains underutilized. Many farmers expressed challenges in accessing suitable land through formal tenancy agreement with iTaukei Land Trust Board (iTTLTB) as most farmers accessing land through informal arrangement. This highlights the need for improved land allocation processes and support mechanisms. Farmer training also remains a priority, particularly in modern, climate-smart, and efficient agricultural practices that can boost productivity and strengthen resilience.

The Committee further recognized the potential to grow demand for locally produced rice particularly brown rice, which offers significant health benefits and supports national efforts to combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Promotion of local rice through Government institutions will not only improve public health outcomes but also reduce Fiji's reliance on imported rice.

I would like to thank the staff of Fiji Rice, Deputy Secretary and Research Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture for their cooperation throughout this review process.

I also acknowledge the valuable contributions of my fellow Committee Members - Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau, Hon. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Hon. Shalen Kumar and secretariat for their support in producing this report.

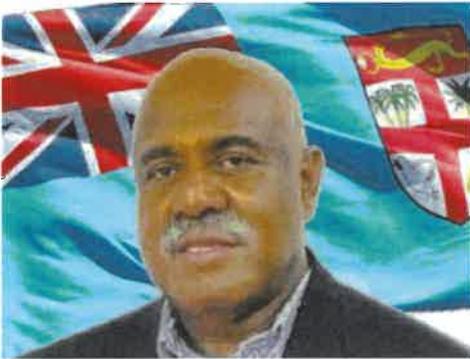
On behalf of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, I present this Review Report to Parliament and request all members of this august House to take note of its findings in the report.



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Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna
Chairperson

1.0 Committee Membership

Pursuant to Standing Order 109(2)(a) the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs is mandated to look into matters related to economic development, finance, banking and taxation. The members of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and are as follows:



Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna
Chairperson



Hon. Premila Kumar
Deputy Chairperson



Hon. Semi Koroilavesau
Member



Hon. Alipate Tuicolo
Member



Hon. Shalen Kumar
Member



Hon. Kalaveti Ravu
Member

1.1 Committee Secretariat

The Committee is supported by a team of Parliament Officers serving as the Committee Secretariat. These officers are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament under Standing Order 15(3)(i). The Secretariat team consists of the following Parliament officers:

- Ms. Marica Tuisoso – Senior Committee Clerk
- Ms. Awantika Raj – Deputy Committee Clerk

Committee contact details.

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2.0 Background and Terms of Reference

The Standing Committee on Economic Affairs ('the Committee'), was referred the Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Reports 2018-2023 on 10th March 2025, pursuant to Standing Order 38(2) of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of Fiji. The Committee was mandated to review these Annual Reports and table its findings to Parliament.

In line with its mandate, the Committee undertook a detailed examination of the report and now presents its findings and observations to Parliament.

2.1 Procedure and Programme

- 2.1.1 The Committee began its review of the Annual Reports in February 2026. The review process was agreed upon by consensus among the Committee Members and involved a comprehensive and systematic examination of the reports.
- 2.1.2 Before the formal meetings, the Members of the Committee read and reviewed the 2018-2023 Annual Reports. During the Committee deliberations, Members analysed the content of the reports, identified key issues, and engaged in in-depth discussions to evaluate the findings. These discussions led to the formulation of the key questions and identification of issues requiring further clarification.
- 2.1.3 A workplan was developed for site visit and consultation with key stakeholders such as Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry, Office of the Commissioner Northern, liaison with Fiji Rice to meet up with the existing farmers, to discuss challenges faced by farmers and opportunity to increase production.
- 2.1.4 The Committee also identified potential farmers, technical analysis and new areas for possible extension of rice farming. Finally, a round table meeting was held with the Ministry of Agriculture before the report was finalised.

2.2 Oral Evidence Received

- 2.2.1 The Committee received briefing from the Fiji Rice, Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry, the Rice and the farmers from Bua, Cakaudrove and Macuata. At the end of the review, the Committee made recommendations based on the discussions with stakeholders and on the content of the Annual Reports.

2.3 Written Evidence Received

- 2.3.1 The Committee received written submission from Fiji Rice in relation to the questions that was sent to them for their response.

2.4 Site Visit and Consultation

- 2.4.1 The Committee undertook site visit to Fiji Rice Mill, farmers in Bua, Dreketi and Macuata from the 3rd to 5th March 2026 in the Northern Division.
- 2.4.2 The Committee visited several rice farmers in Labasa, Dreketi and Savusavu. This exercise provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by potential an upcoming paddy farmer who are capable of expanding rice farming into large scale. The intent of this site visit is to support a comprehensive review of Fiji Rice Annual Reports and to inform upcoming policy deliberations, the consolidated financial and operational data covering the 2018–2023 Financial Years. Specifically, this includes information on government budget allocations and support provided to Fiji Rice such as grants, subsidies, and capital injections alongside annual production figures detailing paddy procurement and milling outputs. The visit also aims to gather records of any rice importation or exportation activities undertaken during the period under review and to obtain yearly data on the number of registered rice farmers supplying to Fiji Rice. Collectively, this information will enable clearer analysis of performance trends, stakeholder participation, and the organisation’s strategic and financial position over the six-year period.
- 2.4.3 In addition to obtaining consolidated operational and financial data from Fiji Rice for the 2018–2023 Financial Years, the Committee also met with the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry to ensure alignment and strengthen synergies between the Ministry’s policy direction and Fiji Rice’s operational priorities. These consultations are intended to provide a holistic understanding of sectoral initiatives and ensure that the Committee’s assessment of Fiji Rice’s performance and future needs is informed by broader Government strategies and Northern Development Priorities.

3.0 Committee Deliberations and Analysis

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 Fiji Rice Pte Limited, formerly known as Rewa Rice Limited, is an important part of Fiji's agricultural and economic landscape since its establishment in 1960. The company was founded after the Government of Fiji took over the Colonial Sugar Refinery (CSR) Company, aiming to provide employment to those affected by the closure of CSR. Recognising the unsuitability of sugarcane cultivation in the Central Division due to climatic conditions, rice was introduced as an alternative crop, marking the beginning of Fiji's journey toward rice production. The company is also part of Fiji's import substitution efforts, aimed at reducing high dependence on imported foods.
- 3.1.2 Fiji Rice's strategic focus is directed toward strengthening the reliability of its supply chain, broadening its market reach, enhancing internal efficiency, and maintaining strong community engagement. To secure a stable flow of paddy, the company has introduced initiatives such as farmer contracts, planting incentives, and in-house cultivation programs. Efforts to diversify markets have targeted higher-value segments, including tourism and health, accompanied by operational upgrades through investments in milling equipment and governance systems, although the outcomes of these initiatives have not been clearly reflected in the annual reports. The organisation continues to face several constraints, including climate-related threats, rising production costs, price controls that limit margins, and inconsistent paddy supply highlighted by the downturn in intake in 2023. Financial pressures persist due to an equity deficit and dependence on government and shareholder funding, while the substantial paddy stock write-off approved in 2024 indicates the need for improved inventory oversight.

3.2 Summary of the 2018 and 2023 Performance and Achievements

A summary of achievements for the periods under review are listed below:

Key Financial Highlights for Financial Year 2018 and 2023

- 3.2.1 Fiji Rice's financial performance over the years has been marked by fluctuations, largely influenced by external factors such as government grants and paddy intake. Profitability has been inconsistent with a significant drop of 93 percent to \$42,228 in 2023.
- 3.2.2 In 2018 profitability was \$386,068, thus declined by 52.5 percent to \$183,251. However, a significant increase in profitability of 2,493,589 was attained in 2020 as a result of two

company's properties that were sold at Nausori. The profit declined again in 2021 by 93.5 percent with the value amounting to \$161,592.

3.2.3 In 2022, profitability attained was \$607,273, an increase of 275.8 percent from year 2021.

3.2.4 Reporting standards (IFRS) do not mandate a specific breakdown of government grants as a percentage of total revenue. Instead, grants are typically reported as part of other revenue or revenue without further disaggregation.

3.2.5 Production and Supply Trends

Year	Paddy purchase (kg)	% Change
2013	1,292,000	-
2014	1,497,000	15.9%
2015	724,037	-51.6%
2016 (half-year)	702,235	(-3.0%)
2017	1,019,650	(45.2%)
2018	857,009	-16.0%
2019	982,254	14.6%
2020	1,322,033	34.6%
2021	1,276,979	-3.4%
2022	1,685,730	32.0%
2023	1,098,519	-34.8%

From 2018 to 2023, paddy purchases showed significant fluctuations, reflecting an overall unstable trend. After declining in 2018, volumes rebounded moderately in 2019 and rose sharply in 2020, reaching over 1.32 million kg. This momentum softened slightly in 2021 but remained high. The strongest performance occurred in 2022 with a peak of 1.69 million kg, marking the highest level in the period. However, this was followed by a steep decline in 2023, where purchases dropped by nearly 35%. Overall, the six-year period is characterized by alternating recovery and contraction, ending with a major downturn after a record-high year.

4.0 Findings

The Committee conducted a thorough review of the annual reports and identified several key findings as stated below:

- 4.1 Fiji Rice still heavily relying on Government grants. Fiji Rice Pte Ltd is insolvent without government grant it will close-down.
- 4.2 The Committee noted that the recommendations from the Fiji Rice Pte Limited 2013-2017 review report were not implemented and Fiji Rice Pte Ltd did not provide a response to these recommendations to the Parliament (Tables and Journals Unit) as required under the *SO 121(6)(b)*.
- 4.3 That Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Reports have consistently focused on activities rather than measurable targets, with no clear targets or performance indicators. This lack of impact-based reporting limits the Committee's ability to assess the company effectiveness in fulfilling the government's development agenda as outlined in the National Development Plan.
- 4.4 The Committee noted that there was lack of collaboration or partnership Fiji Rice Pte Ltd as miller with MoAWSI to identify potential farmers that can be assist and promoted to become semi-commercial to full commercial farming.
- 4.5 The poor rice production is linked to the extension services delivered by the extension officers from the MoAWSI. The absence of clear targets for extension officers has led to low productivity, and non-achievement of national outcomes of self-sufficiency in nutritious brown rice to curb Non-communicable Disease (NCDs).
- 4.6 Lack of maintenance of key infrastructure in major rice producing areas including irrigation, drying and aged milling facilities which discourage farmers from venturing into rice farming.
- 4.7 Issues surrounding land use and concerns about the iTLTB (iTaukei Land Trust Board) for better land utilization to maximize benefits for landowners and farmers.

5.0 Recommendations

The Committee makes the following recommendations to enhance Fiji Rice Pte Ltd efficiency, accountability, and impact on national economic development:

- 5.1 That expression of interest should be called to identify strategic partners to invest in the company.
- 5.2 That Tables and Journals Unit must strictly ensure adherence to *SO 121(6)(b)* which states that: ‘the Minister responsible for the relevant government department must table a substantive response to the standing committee’s report within 21 days of receiving the report’.
- 5.3 That Fiji Rice Pte Ltd should adopt a results-based reporting framework that includes clear, measurable annual performance targets aligned with the National Development Plan. This should include establishing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) such as paddy volume targets, farmer participation rates, production efficiency metrics, financial performance goals, and grant-impact measures and reporting progress against these indicators each year. The company should also shift its Annual Reports from activity-based descriptions to impact-focused outcomes, supported by data, trends, and independent verification. Additionally, Fiji Rice should develop a corporate performance monitoring system and require its Board to provide oversight to ensure targets are met and reporting is transparent, enabling the Committee to effectively assess its contribution to national development.
- 5.4 That Fiji Rice Pte Ltd and the MoAWSI establish a formal partnership framework including a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), shared performance targets, coordinated programs, and regular joint planning meetings to ensure better alignment between production efforts and milling operations. This structured collaboration would improve communication, streamline support to farmers, and create a unified approach to growing the rice industry while strengthening Fiji Rice’s contribution to national development goals.
- 5.5 That MoAWSI should set clear, measurable performance targets for extension officers, so their work directly supports higher rice yields and greater adoption of nutritious brown rice. By strengthening accountability and aligning extension activities with national self-sufficiency and health goals, productivity can improve and progress toward reducing NCD risks can be accelerated.
- 5.6 That MoAWSI and Fiji Rice should prioritise urgent repair and upgrading of key rice infrastructure including irrigation, drying facilities and ageing mills to ensure

reliable processing capacity and restore farmer confidence. Improving and maintaining these facilities will reduce post-harvest losses, lower production risks, and encourage more farmers to re-enter or expand rice farming.

- 5.7 That priority should accord to review and amend legislation relating to iTLTB to ensure that is responsive to the demand of interested tenants and provide better returns to landowners.
- 5.8 That Fiji Rice Pte Ltd must increase its marketing budget to improve sales and reduce stockpiling of paddy in silos.

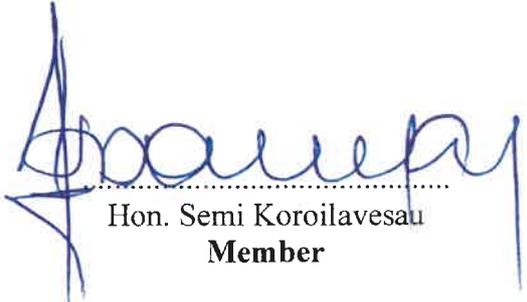
6.0 Sustainable Development Goals

Fiji Rice Pte Limited's annual reports from 2013–2023 show no meaningful gender analysis, as they do not discuss gender in governance, workforce composition, farmer programmes, or product development. While some women sit on the Board, there is no evidence of policies, data, or initiatives aimed at promoting gender equity or aligning with national gender frameworks. This gender-neutral approach limits the company's ability to ensure inclusive and equitable benefits. However, Fiji Rice has clear opportunities to strengthen its impact by integrating gender-sensitive reporting, developing inclusive programmes, and partnering with stakeholders to align with the SDGs, the National Development Plan, and gender-equality standards.

7.0 Conclusion

After reviewing the Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Reports 2018-2023, the Committee concludes that Fiji Rice Pte Ltd faces significant structural, financial, and operational challenges that limit its contribution to national development. The company's heavy reliance on government grants, lack of measurable performance targets, weak collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry and poor maintenance of critical infrastructure continue to undermine progress toward national rice self-sufficiency. Addressing land-use constraints and strengthening accountability both within Fiji Rice and across government systems is essential. The Committee therefore urges swift implementation of the recommended reforms to ensure a more sustainable, performance-driven, and collaborative rice industry that supports farmers, landowners, and Fiji's long-term food security goals.

8.0 Committee Members' Signatures

 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna Chairperson	
 Hon. Premila Kumar Deputy Chairperson	 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau Member
 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo Member	 Hon. Shalen Kumar Member
 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu Member	

9.0 Annexure

Published evidence

Written evidence, transcripts and supporting documents can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-economic-affairs/>