



Honorable Charan Jeath Singh
MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, MULTI-ETHNIC AFFAIRS,
CULTURE, HERITAGE AND ARTS

REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION-12/2026

MONDAY 27 APRIL 2026

Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Minister for Public Enterprises, and Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- a) What are the milling figures of rice production in the last 5 years;**
- b) What plans and incentives are there in place to improve rice production and minimise imports; and**
- c) What percentage of rice are milled at Fiji Rice and other private millers.**

1. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for the question. I provide below the following information ;

- a) What are the milling figures of rice production in the last 5 years.**

The milling figures for rice production over the last five years, the following data is provided:

Total National Rice Production		Total Rice Production for Fiji Rice Pte Limited	
Year	Production (Tonnes)	Year	Production (Tonnes)
2020	9,219.96	2020	1,322
2021	10,737.75	2021	1,276
2022	13,355.97	2022	1,685
2023	6,724	2023	1,098
2024	8,597.50	2024	1,301

Table 1- milling figures of rice production in the last 5 years

b.) What plans and incentives are there in place to improve rice production and minimise imports.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I will address this part of the question in two parts. Firstly, it is important to recognise that Fiji Rice Limited is primarily a milling entity whose core function is the efficient processing of paddy rice. Secondly, the company relies on the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar for extension and technical support, while the production of rice rests with our farmers. Therefore, any incentive framework to strengthen the rice industry must necessarily be cross-sectoral and coordinated across the relevant agencies.

Plans for Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry:

- Improve productivity through improved varieties, seed purification, and breeding.
- Expand rice production into new areas, including sugarcane belts for crop diversification.
- Invest in infrastructure (irrigation, roads, storage, milling).
- Support mechanization to address labour shortages.
- Strengthen technology adoption and best practices.
- Implement policy interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Conduct market demand and consumer preference surveys.
- Implement 10-Year Rice Expansion Plan (2027–2036).

Plans for Fiji Rice Pte Limited:

- Fiji Rice Limited (FRL) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry (MOAWSI) and key stakeholders, has put in place several targeted plans and incentives to improve rice production and reduce reliance on imports.
- Efforts are being made to expand farmer participation by collaborating with key stakeholders, including the Fiji Sugar Corporation, to mobilise and engage up to 2,500 farmers. This initiative targets an average supply of one tonne per farmer, particularly from new and smallholder participants, while also promoting rice cultivation in suitable cane and fallow land areas.
- There is a strong focus on scaling up commercial farmer output. This involves working closely with MOAWSI and existing commercial farmers who are currently supplying more than 20 tonnes. Assessments are being undertaken on land capacity, irrigation access, mechanisation, and expansion potential, including opportunities for double-cropping and improved farm management practices.
- Targeted support is being provided to commercial farmers through strengthened support packages. These include improved seed varieties, mechanised land preparation, harvesting support, fertiliser and agronomic guidance, as well as irrigation and drainage assistance. In addition, performance-based incentives are being introduced to encourage higher productivity and yields.
- FRL is working with cooperatives supported by the iTaukei Land Trust Board to unlock larger contiguous land areas for rice production.

Tabulated below is the specifics of the assistance provided;

Assistance provided to Farmers:

Assistance provided by MoAWSI	
Material Inputs	Provision of certified seeds, specific agro-chemicals (Urea, Muriate of Potash, SSP), and small farming machinery (Rice Reapers, Threshers, Mist Blowers).
Technical Assistance	Agronomic training, pest/disease management protocols, soil testing services, and strategic crop planning.
Extension Services	Farmer Field Schools, on-site demonstration plots, and continuous knowledge transfer via extension officers.
Mechanisation Support:	Distribution of tractors, harvesters, and equipment
MOAWSI Funding Provision	Increased from \$790,000 (2020–21) to \$2.7 million (2025–26)
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Farm Status: Requires legally titled land or valid land consent.</p> <p>Geographical Scope: Area must be deemed suitable for rice cultivation.</p> <p>Technical Eligibility: Must have access to reliable water sources and land preparation capacity.</p>

Table 2 – Assistance provided by MoAWSI

Assistance provided by FRL	
Paddy Pricing Structure	<p>Fiji Rice Limited maintains a tiered pricing system based on paddy quality (moisture content):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Grade Paddy (Moisture level below 15.4%) – \$1,000 per tonne • B Grade Paddy (Moisture level between 15.4% and 21.4%) – \$800 per tonne <p>This pricing structure incentivizes farmers to maintain quality standards and adopt proper post-harvest practices.</p>
Financial Support Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total allocation of \$300 per acre ○ 80% funded as grant, with 20% farmer contribution • Fertilizer and Weedicide Grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided to assist farmers in improving crop yield and reducing input cost burden
Harvest and Collection Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Paddy Pickups from farm gates • Drainage Assistance through in-field drains to improve water management and crop productivity
Mechanization and Operational Support	<p>Farmers are supported through Fiji Rice Limited’s machinery at subsidized rates, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesters • Tractors • Excavators <p>This support reduces operational costs and improves efficiency in land preparation and harvesting.</p>
Extension Services	<p>Extension services are provided to enhance farmer knowledge, improve farming practices, and ensure compliance with best agronomic standards.</p>

Table 3 – Assistance provided by FRL

c.) What percentage of rice are milled at Fiji Rice and other private millers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, for this part of the question we rely on the Ministry of Agriculture for the national data on rice production. However, it is important to note that the accuracy of these figures can sometimes be contested, as there is currently no formal system to weigh paddy harvested in the fields, particularly for farmers who do not supply their produce to Fiji Rice Limited. In most cases, total production is estimated based on the area planted and the average yield per hectare. In contrast, paddy supplied to Fiji Rice Limited is properly cleaned and weighed at the mill.

Year	Total Production (Tonnes)	Supplied to FRL (Tonnes)	Milled by FRL%	Milled by Farmers/other private millers
2020/2021	9,219.96	1,276	13.8	86.2
2021/2022	10,737.75	1,685	15.6	84.4
2022/2023	13,355.97	1,098	8.2	91.8
2023/2024	6,724	1,301	19.3	80.7
2024/2025	8,597.5	1,653	19.2	80.8

Table 3 – percentage of rice are milled at Fiji Rice and other private millers.