Threshing
Threshing is done manually but mechanical threshers are also available.

Milling
Small scale hulling machines are available in some parts of the country.

Uses
Mainly as food but can also be processed into biscuits and other confectionaries. Other rice by-products such as husk, hull and straw can be used as livestock feed.
Rain fed rice is a profitable commercial activity with reasonable return on investment.
Introduction

Rice grows in warm areas ranging from coastal lowlands up to 1,700 metres above sea level. It requires 800mm or more of rainfall and soils varying from poorly drained to well-drained.

Mwea and Ahero are the current rice irrigation schemes while other areas of rice cultivation are the rain fed areas. In all these areas, various varieties are cultivated.

Varieties

Suitable varieties include Dourado Precoce, NERICA 1, NERICA 4, NERICA 10, and NERICA 11. They mature within 90 – 120 days and yield from 3.5 to 5.5 t/ha under good management and favourable environment.

Cultivation

Land preparation:
Prepare fine seedbed using tractor, Ox plough or hand hoe.

Planting:
Row or hill planting may be used at a depth of 2 to 3 centimetres.

Spacing:
25cm x drill or 25cm x 15cm

Seed-rate:
50 – 75 kg/ha

Fertilizer application:
Use 2 bags/ha of TSP or DAP at planting and top dress with 1 bag/ha of CAN at 20 and 50 days after germination.

Weeding:
Weed 2-3 times.

Pests and Disease control:
Plant tolerant varieties like the NERICAs, but in case of any attack, consult the nearest agricultural office.
Minimise bird damage by scaring and destroying bird nests near the rice fields.

Harvesting:
Harvest when mature using sickles.