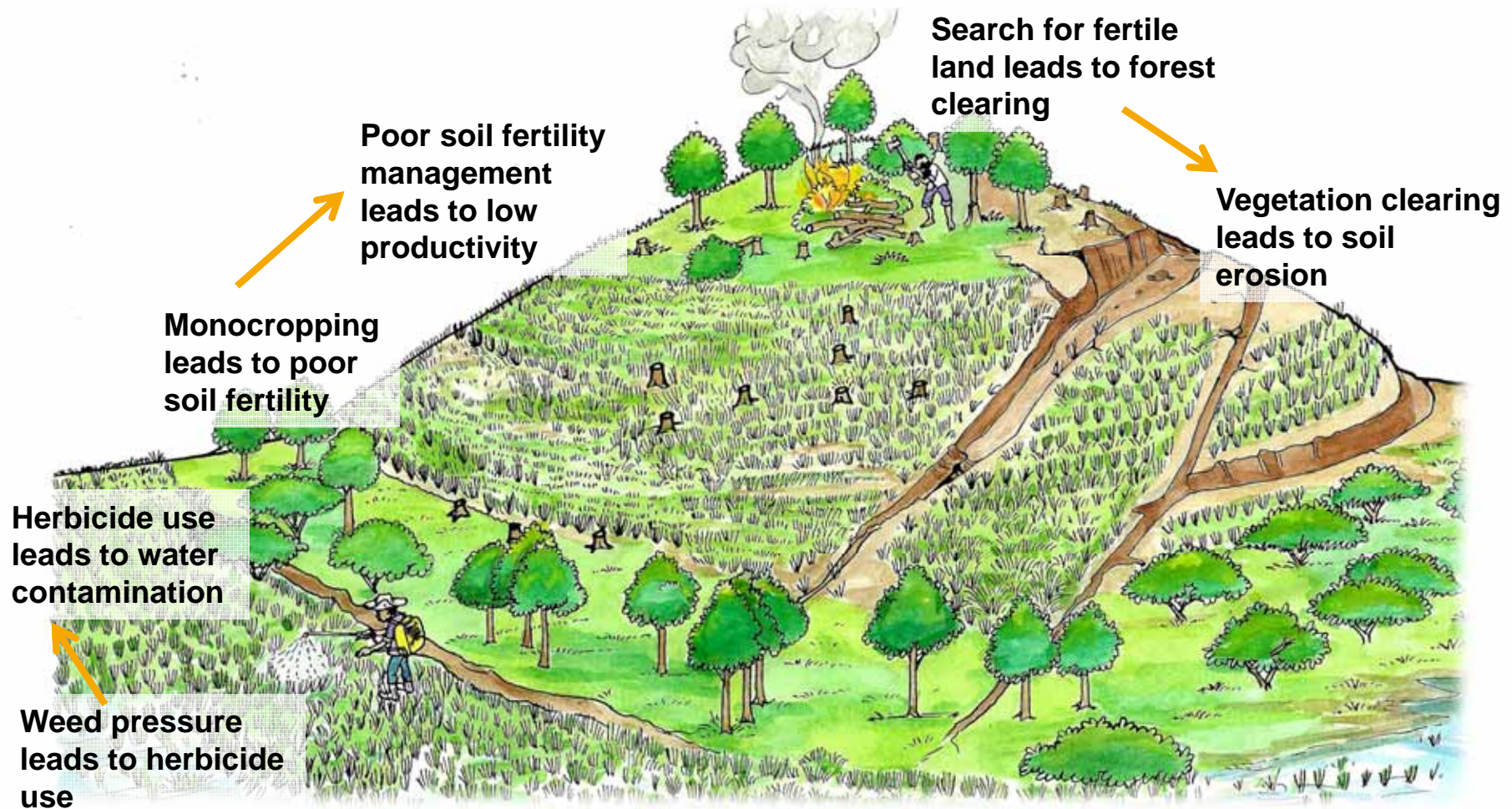


Poor management practices in rice production

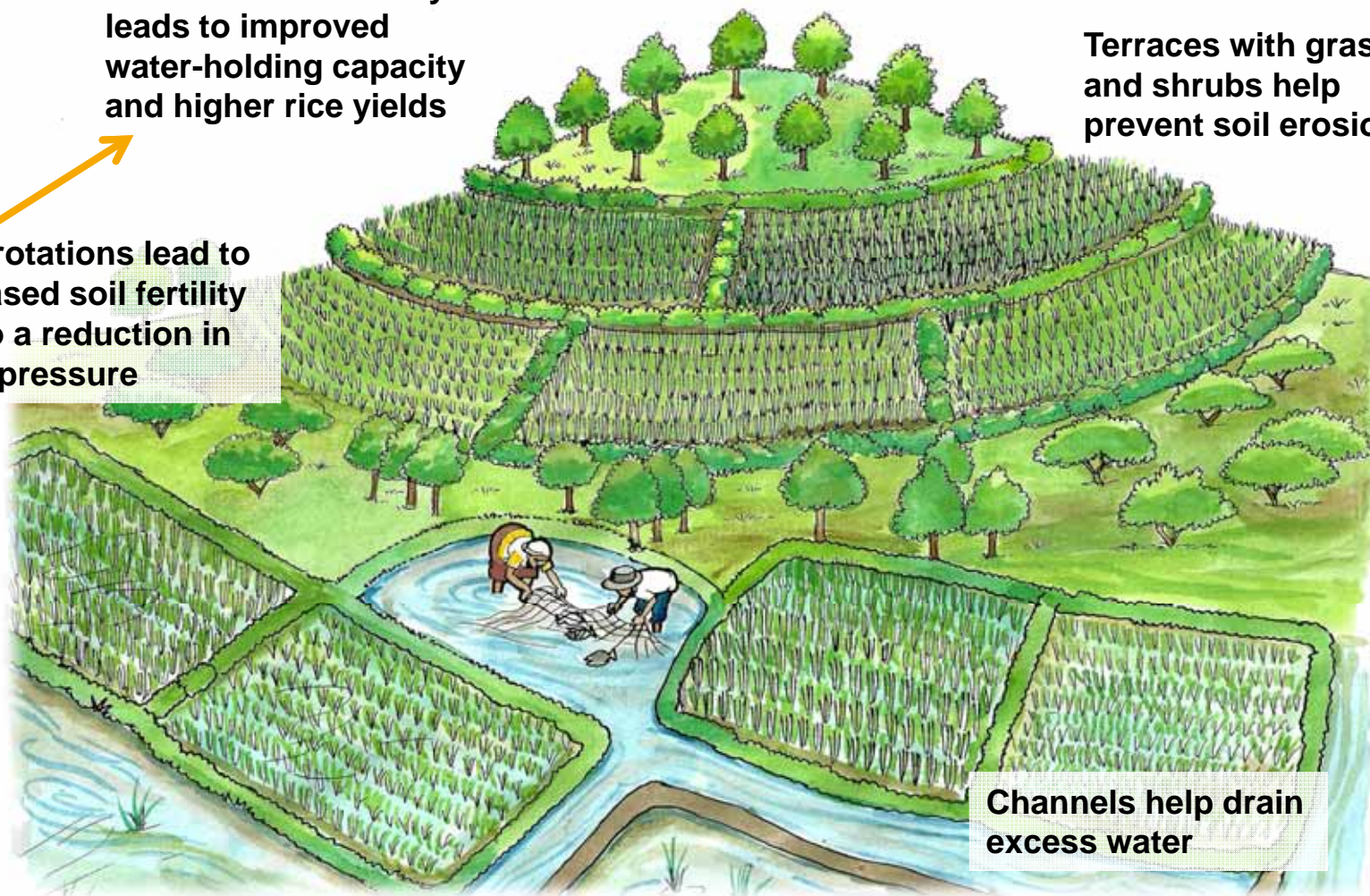


Improved management of rice production

Increased soil fertility leads to improved water-holding capacity and higher rice yields

Terraces with grass and shrubs help prevent soil erosion

Crop rotations lead to increased soil fertility and to a reduction in weed pressure



Channels help drain excess water



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.



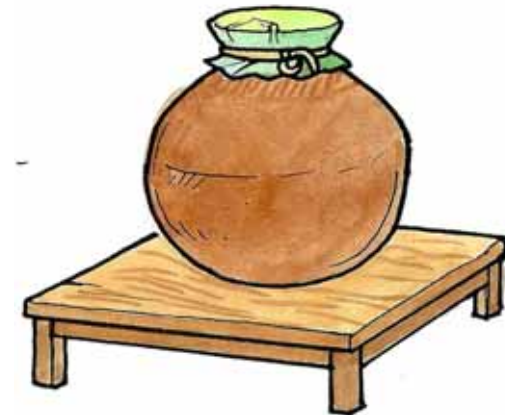
2. Drying



Dry under shade, protected from direct sun.

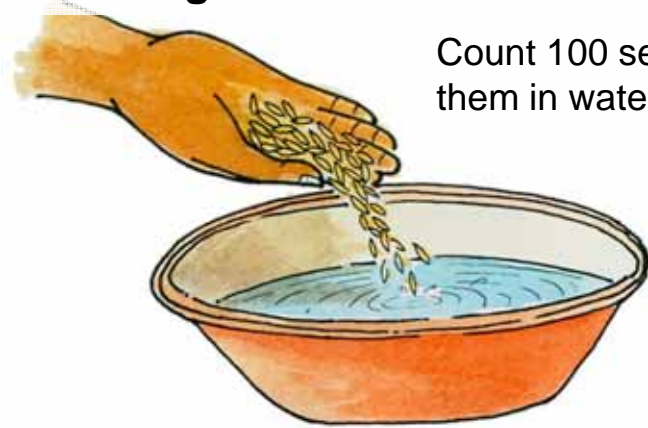
3. Storage

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.

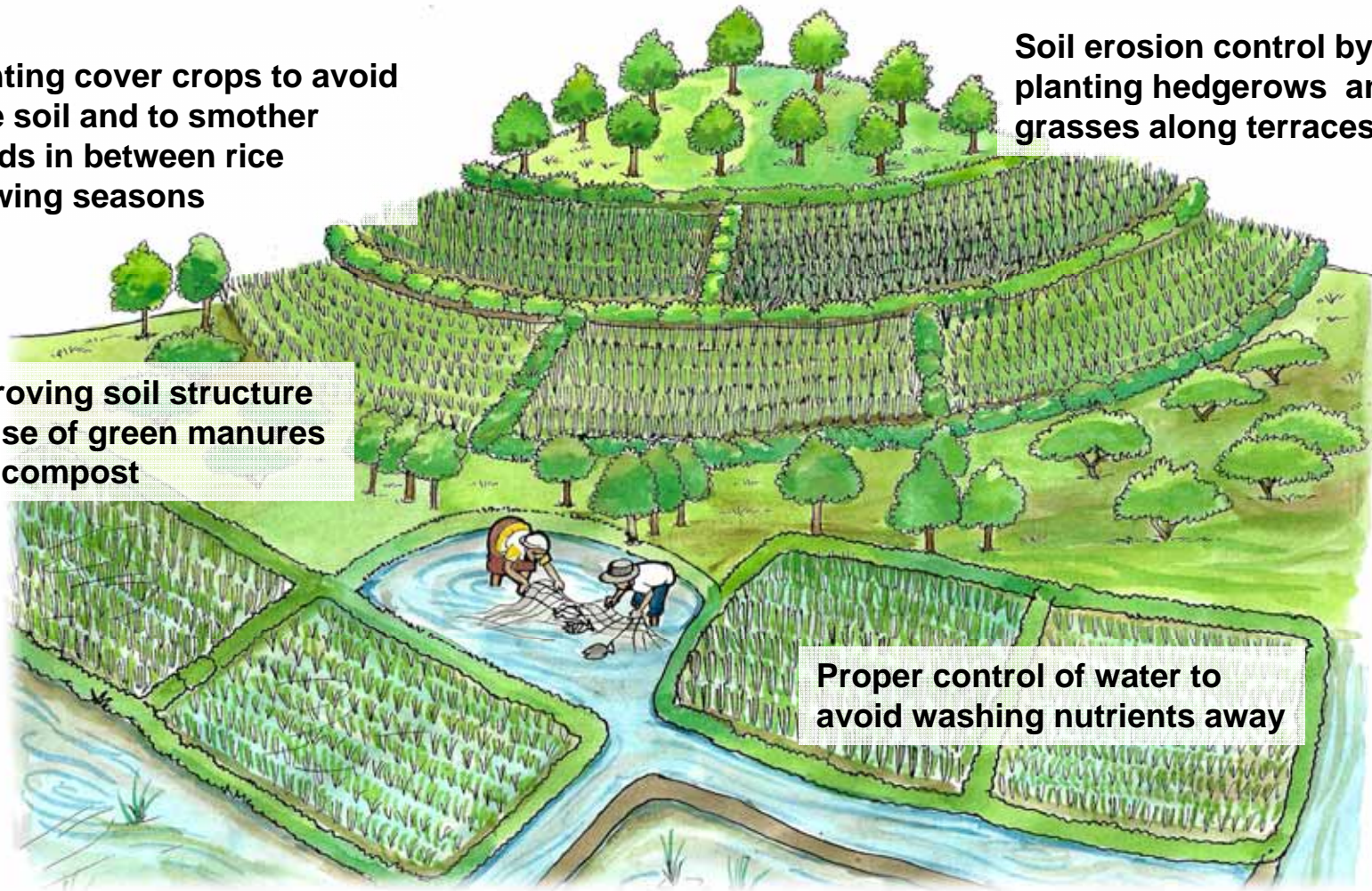


Soil conservation strategies

Planting cover crops to avoid bare soil and to smother weeds in between rice growing seasons

Improving soil structure by use of green manures and compost

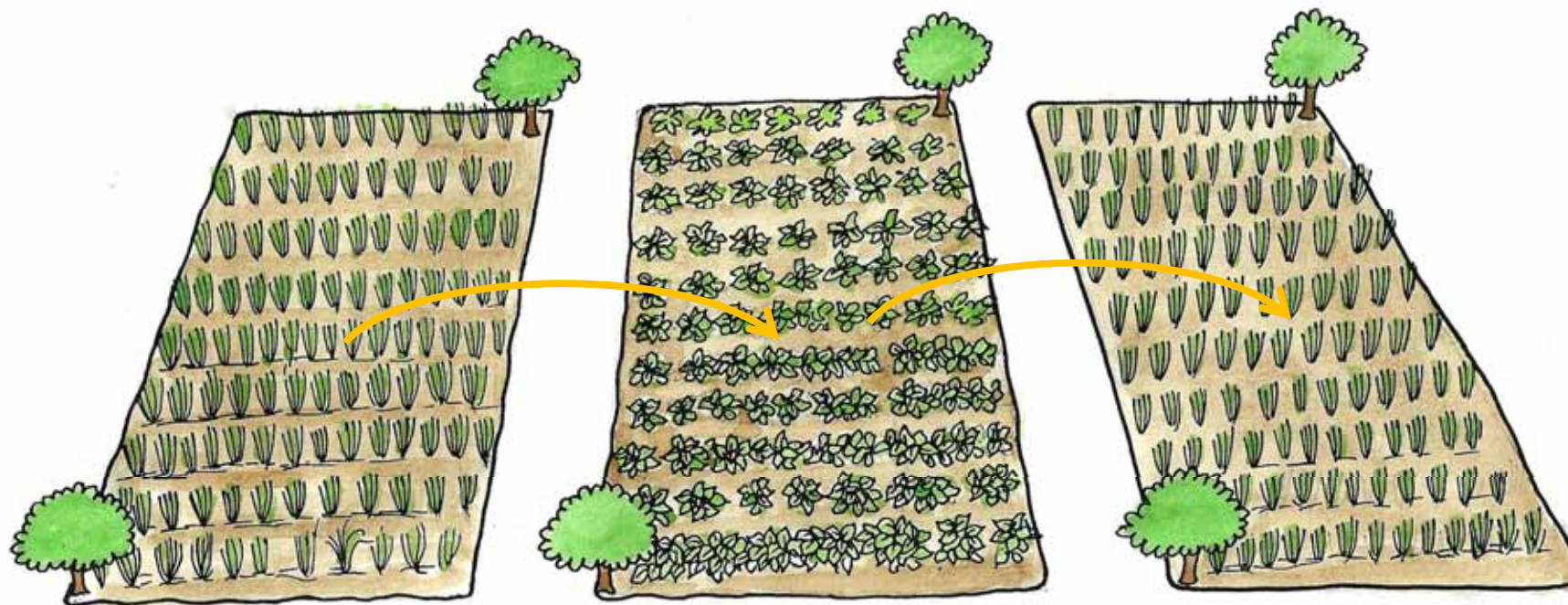
Soil erosion control by planting hedgerows and grasses along terraces



Proper control of water to avoid washing nutrients away



Diversification strategies in lowland rice systems



1st season: Rice crop

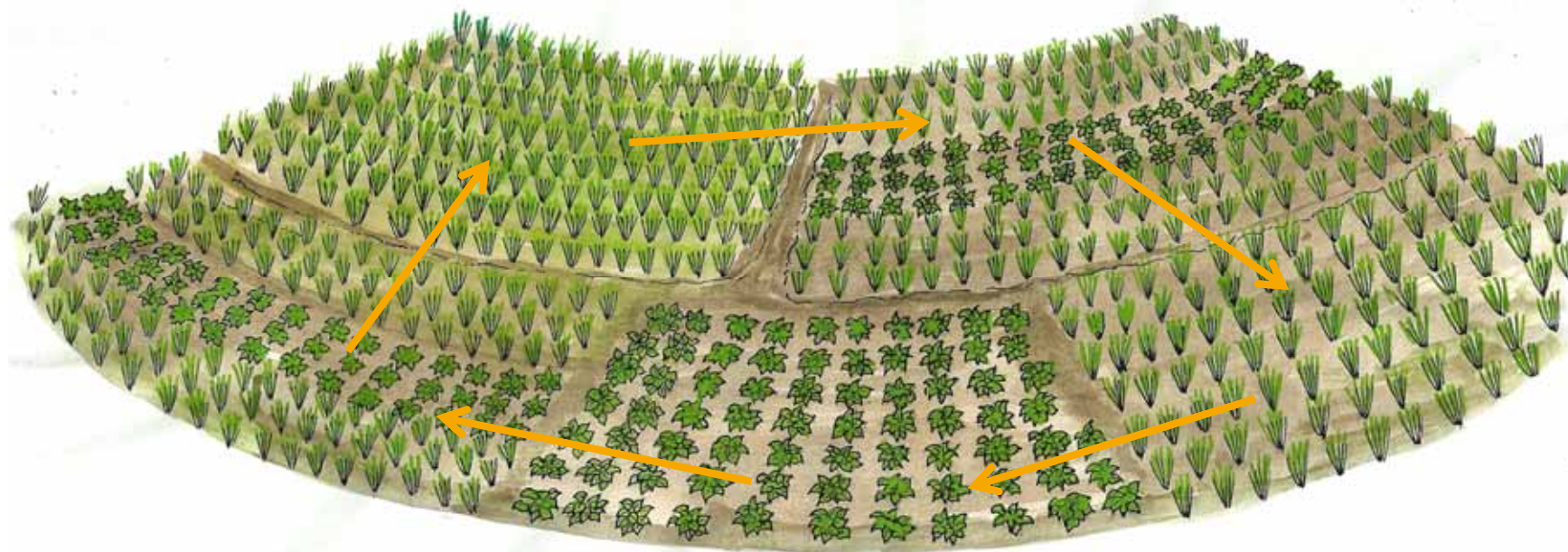
Legume green manure
between cropping seasons

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



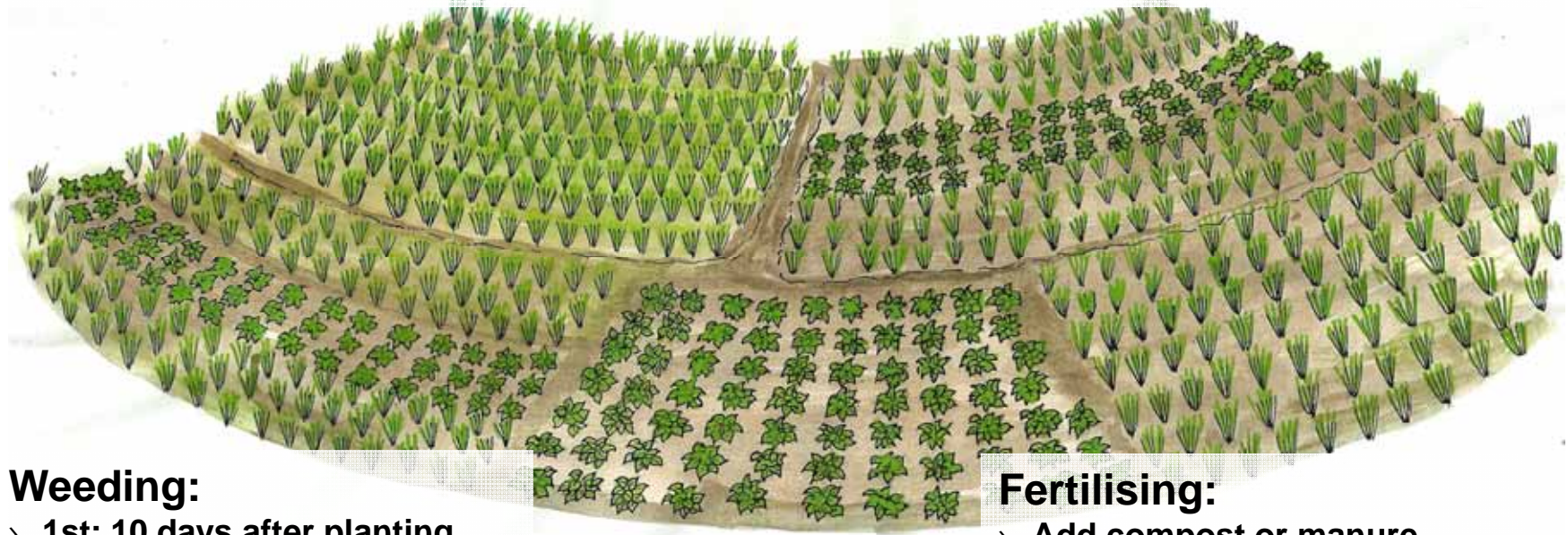
The SRI approach in Madagascar

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:

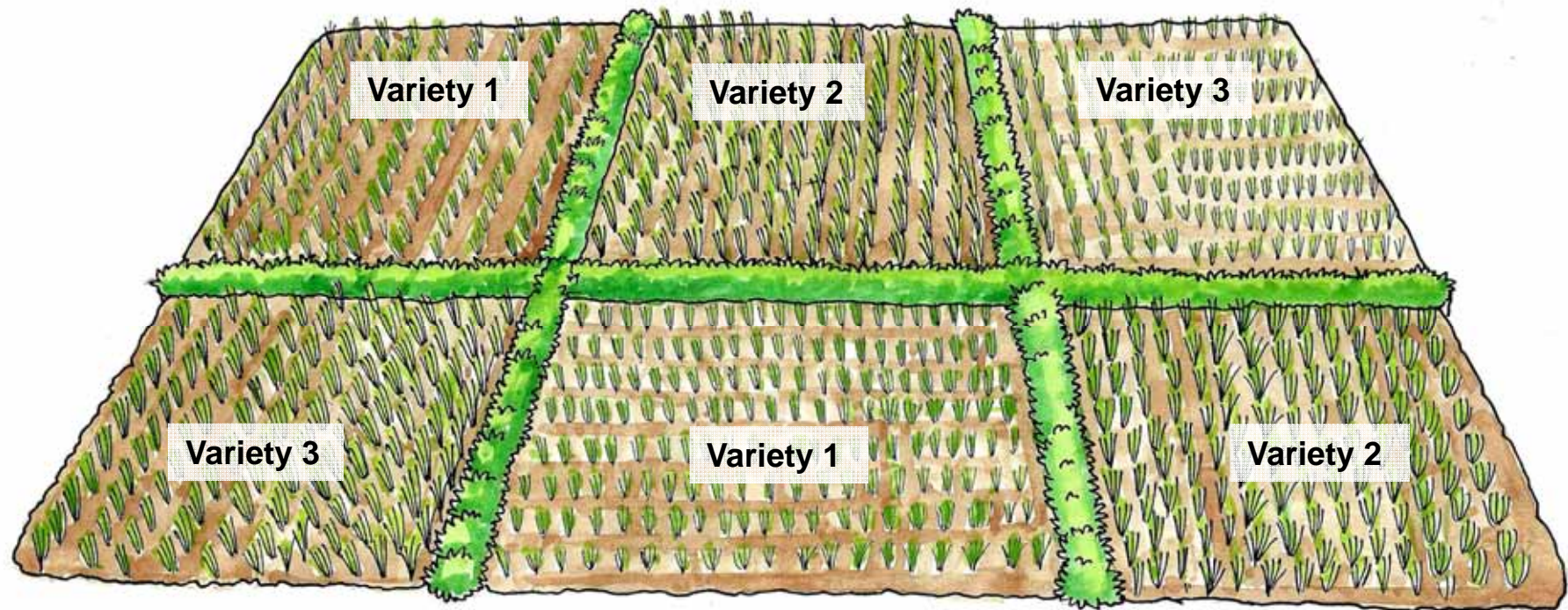
- › 1st: 10 days after planting.
- › 2nd: within 2 weeks after 1st
- › Additionally: 1 to 2 times before flowering.

Fertilising:

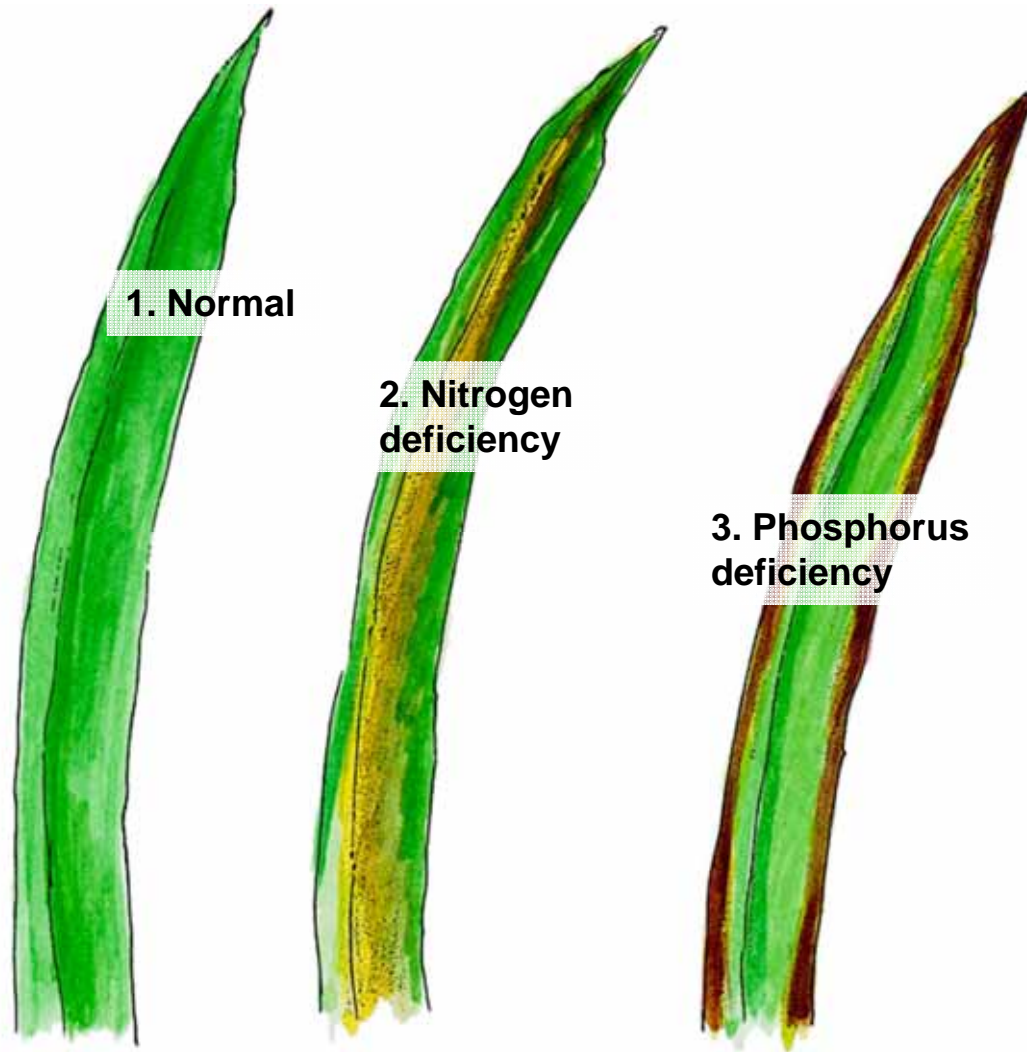
- › Add compost or manure whenever possible to increase nutrient levels.



Mosaic pattern: different rice varieties at different growth stages



Rice leaves at various stages of health

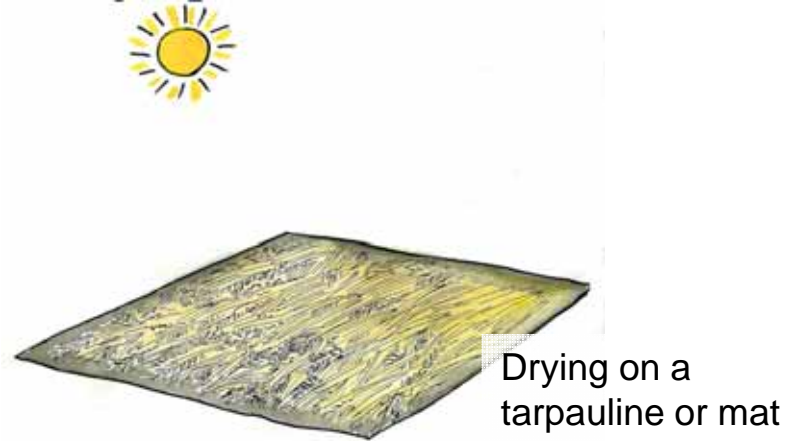


Postharvest handling process of rice

1. Harvesting



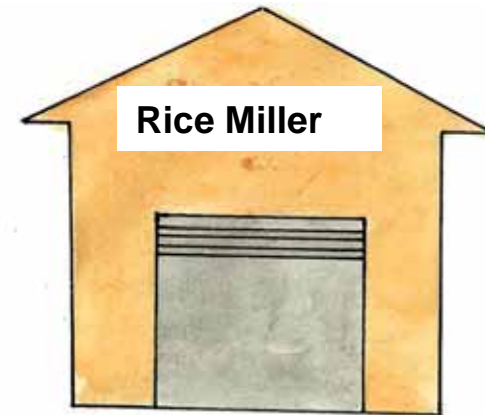
2. Drying



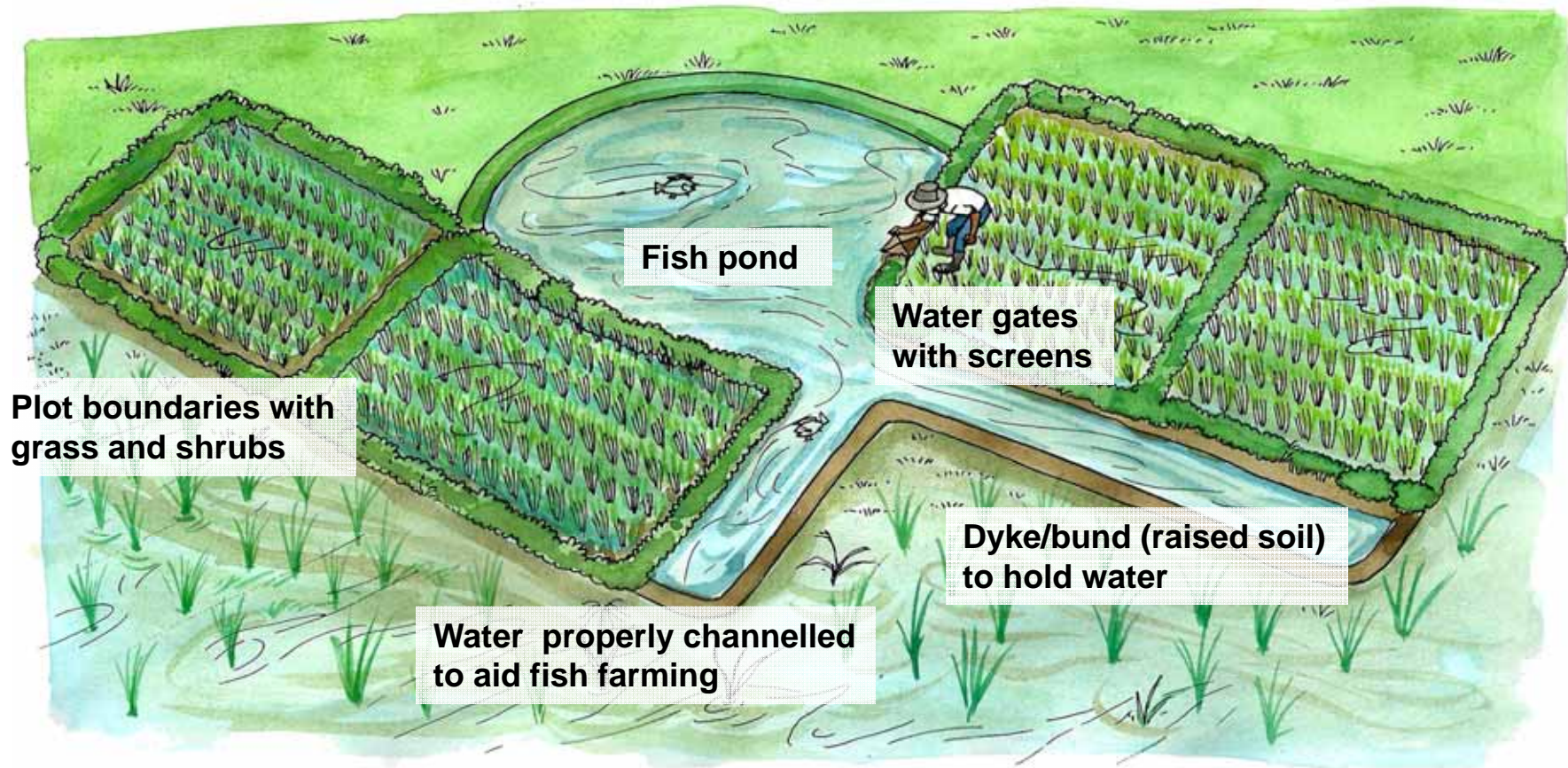
3. Threshing and packing



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



4. Find a milling facility



5. Contact a certification body



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

