

Good rice harvesting practices in India focus on

timely cutting, efficient threshing, and proper cleaning to maximize yield and quality. Key steps include cutting mature panicles, separating grains from the straw (threshing), and cleaning to remove debris. It is best to avoid field drying and stacking to prevent quality loss.

Harvesting

- **Cutting:** Harvest when the panicles are mature, but the straw is still somewhat green and flexible to prevent grain shattering.
- **Timing:** Harvesting times vary based on the season and state, but generally occur from September to October for pre-Kharif sowing.
- **Manual vs. Mechanical:**
 - **Manual:** Involves using sickles to cut and traditional tools for threshing.
 - **Mechanical:** Uses reapers for cutting and binders, or combine harvesters for cutting and threshing.
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Post-harvesting

- **Drying:** After harvesting, the grain is dried, often using simple methods like spread out in the sun. However, it's best to avoid field drying to prevent losses and quality deterioration.
- **Threshing:** This is the process of separating the paddy grain from the rest of the cut crop. Methods include:
 - **Manual threshing:** Beating the stalks against a hard surface, using a threshing rack, or trampling with animals.
 - **Mechanical threshing:** Using a threshing machine or a combine harvester.
- **Cleaning:** Remove all chaff, weeds, and unfilled grains from the harvested grain using winnowing or mechanical cleaners.
- **Storage:** After cleaning, the grain is bagged for transport and storage