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#### Editorial

# Rice as a Source of Fibre

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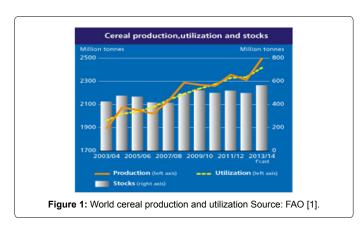
Dietary fibre comes from plant food. Cereals are good source of dietary fibre (Table 1 and 2).

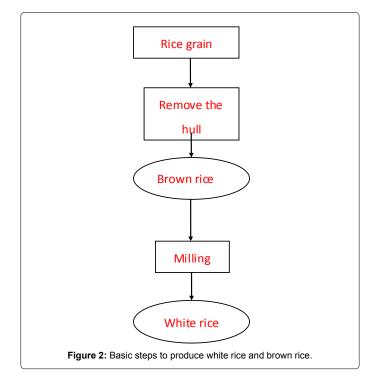
The production, utilization, and stocks of cereal in the world increases each year (Figure 1) among the cereals rice is the second largest produced cereal in the world [1]. Rice is edible starchy cereal grain. Large part of the world population, including virtually all of East and Southeast Asia, is wholly dependent upon rice as a staple food; 95 percent of the world's rice production is eaten by humans and has been a source of food for people from 2500 B.C. Rice production was initiated in China, and spread to countries such as Sri Lanka and India [2]. Twenty percent of the world's dietary energy is provided by rice which is higher than either wheat or maize [3]. In addition rice is an important grain for nutrition and caloric intake [4].

Rice (Table 3) is an excellent food source and rich in vitamins and fibre. Freshly harvested rice is called paddy grain or rough rice. The rice grain (rough rice) consists of the hull, and the rice caryopsis [5]. Underneath the hull, bran, germ, and endosperm are present. Rice is classified basically in to two forms; brown and white rice. Brown rice is produced by dehusking the hull (Figure 2). Un-milled rice has more protein and fibre than the milled or polished rice and can be considered as more nutritious [6]. Rice is ground into several milling grades to obtain the different types of rice flours and grains. This includes: brown rice (only hull removed), unpolished rice (hull, bran and most of the germ removed), and polished rice (aleurone layer removed from unpolished rice) [7]. As in (Table 1 and 2), the major impact of milling on rice is to manipulate the nutritional composition of the grain.

Brown rice consists of the outer layers (pericarp, seed-coat), and the nucleus (bran), the germ or embryo; and the endosperm (Figure 3). The endosperm consists of the aleuronic layer and the endosperm proper (subaleurone layer and the starchy or inner endosperm). The aleuronic layer encloses the embryo. Pigment is confined to the pericarp [8] which gives the colour to brown rice.

Different layers (Figure 2) of rice have different quantities of fat, carbohydrate, protein and fibre, and removing the different layers in the milling process alters nutritional quality. The milling of brown rice involves the removal of the pericarp (outer bran layer), seed-coat, aleuronic layer, and embryo. This results in the loss of fat, protein,





crude and neutral detergent fibre, ash, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin and a-tocopherol in milled rice (Table 1). The other fraction of the rice grain, rice bran, contains an appreciable quantity of crude fibre. Rice bran fibre largely consists of non cellulosic polysaccharide (24%), cellulose 10.3%), and lignin (10.7%) [9].

The nutritional composition of rice differs with variety, condition of the soil, environmental factors, and fertilizers used [10,11].

#### Soluble and Insoluble Fibre in Rice

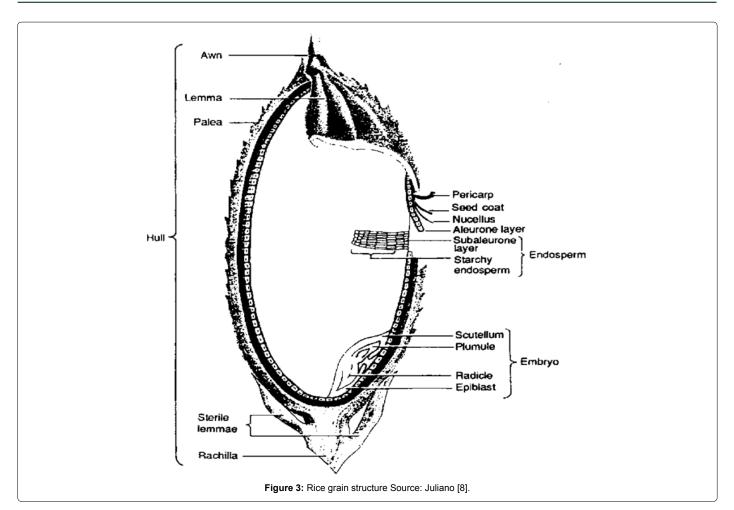
Arabinoxylans, along with some amount of  $\beta$ -d-glucans (Figure 2), are the major components of SDF (soluble dietary fibre) [12] present in rice. In addition, rhamnose, xylose, mannose, galactose, and glucose (Figure 4), can be found as part of the SDF [12]. Cellulose hemi cellulose and insoluble  $\beta$ -glucan and arabinoxylans make up the IDF (insoluble dietary fibre) [13]. However, the amount and the quantity

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Rice fraction	Crude protein (g N×5. 95)	Crude fat (g)	Crude fibre (g)	Crude ash (g)	Available carbohydrates (g)	Neutral detergent fibre (g)	Energy content (kJ)
Rough rice	5.8-7.7	1.5-2.3	7.2-10.4	2.9-5.2	64-73	16.4-19.2	1580
Brown rice	7.1-8.3	1.6-2.8	0.6-1.0	1.0-1.5	73-87	2.9-3.9	1520-1 610
Milled rice	6.3-7.1	0.3-0.5	0.2-0.5	0.3-0.8	77-89	0.7-2.3	1460-1 560
Rice bran	11.3-14.9	15.0-19.7	7.0-11.4	6.6-9.9	34-62	24-29	670-1 990
Rice hull	2.0-2.8	0.3-0.8	34.5-45.9	13.2-21.0	22-34	66-74	1110-1 390

Sources: Eggum, et al. [14]; Pedersen, Eggum, [15]

### Table 1: Approximate composition of rough rice.

Rice Type Type of Nutrition	Brown	White -polished	Red	purple	Black	white
Protein(g/100g)	7.9 (*)	6.8(*)	7.0 (*)	8.3 (*)	8.5 (*)	-
Iron(mg/100g)	2.2 (*)	1.2(*)	5.5 (*)	3.9 (*)	3.5 (*))	-
Zinc(mg/100g)	05 (*)	05 (*)	3.3 (*)	2.2 (*)	- (*)	-
Fibre(g/100g)	2.8(*)	0.6(*)	2.0(*)	1.4 (*)	4.9(*)	
Crude Protein (Dry weight%)	7.3 (**)	-	-	-	-	-
Crude Fat (Dry weight%)	2.2 (**)	-	-	-	-	-
Ash (Dry weight%)	1.4 (**)	-	-	-	-	-
Crude Fibre (Dry weight%)	0.8 (**)	-	-	-	-	-
Available carbohydrate (Dry weight%)	64.3 (**)	-	-	-	-	-
Crude fibre% (Dry weight)	1.0%(***)	-	-	-	-	0.3% (***)
Carbohydrate% (Dry weight)	88%(***)	-	-	-	-	91%(***)
Protein% (Dry Weight)	8.5%(***)	-	-	-	-	7.6%(***)
Lipid(crude fat)% (Dry weight)	2.2%(***)	-	-	-	-	0.5%(***)

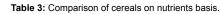
Sources: \* Data obtained from FAO [16]\*\* Data obtained from Alais and Linden [17]\*\*\* Data obtained from Dendy [18]

 Table 2: Proximate analyses of different rice types.

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Food	Moisture (%)	Protein (g Nx 6.25)	Crude fat (g)	Available carbohydrates (g)	Fibre (g)			Crude ash (g)	Energy (kJ)
					Dietary Total	Water insoluble	Lignin		
Brown rice	14	7.3	2.2	71.1	4	-2.7	-0.1	1.4	1 610
Wheat	14	10.6	1.9	61.6	10.5	-7.8	-0.6	1.4	1 570
Maize	14	9.8	4.9	60.9	9	-6.8	0	1.4	1 660
Millet	14	11.5	4.7	64.6	37	-2.3	0	1.5	1 650
Sorghum	14	8.3	3.9	57.4	13.8	-12.4	-3	2.6	1 610
Rye	14	8.7	1.5	60.9	13.1	-8.4	(14)	1.8	1 570
Oats	14	9.3	5.9	63	5.5	-39	0	2.3	1 640
Potato	77.8	2	0.1	15.4	2.5	-1.9	0	1	294
Cassava	63.1	1	0.2	31.9	2.9	-2.2	0	0.7	559
Yam	71.2	2	0.1	22.4	3.3	-2.6	0	1	411

Sources: Souci, et al. [4]



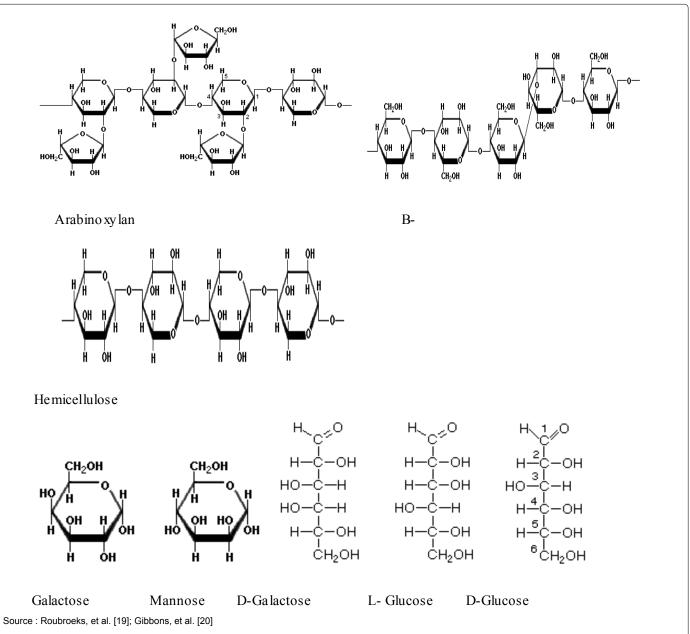


Figure 4: Structures of sugars present in rice.

of these non starch polysaccharides in rice are dependent upon the rice cultivar, degree of milling, and water solubility. In addition the water solubility of non starch polysaccharides is mainly governed by the rice variety, rather than the degree of milling [13].

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