

Planting rice

<https://riverofsong.uk/>

This song from the Philippines is a Tagalog folksong called “Magtanim Ay Di Brió” Hear it in the Filipino language at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TgQ0aagls>. The translation here is not literal but give some idea of the hardships endured by agricultural labourers when planting rice. I first found this song in a Cooperative Recreation Service booklet published in 1948: ‘Work and sing’ an international songbook’ that I used on international voluntary workcamps in the 1960s in Turkey, Finland and Poland. I lived in Malaya in the 1950s as a child and remember well watching paddy field workers with their conical hats, feet in water and bending low to do this difficult task.



Plant - ing rice is nev - er fun, Bent from morn 'til set of sun; Can - not stand and can - not
sit, Can - not rest for a lit - tle bit. Plant - ing rice is no fun! Bent from
morn 'til set of sun; Can - not stand, can - not sit, Can - not rest for a lit - tle
bit. Oh, come friends and let us home - ward take our way, Now we
rest un - til the dawn is grey, Sleep, wel - come sleep, we need to keep us strong,
Morn brings an - no work - day long.



Planting rice is never fun,

Bent from morn till set of sun;
Cannot stand and cannot sit,
Cannot rest for a little bit.

Planting rice is no fun!
Bent from morn till set of sun;
Cannot stand, cannot sit,
Cannot rest a little bit.

Oh, come friends and let us homeward take our way,
Now we rest until the dawn is grey,
Sleep, welcome sleep, we need to keep us strong,
Morn brings another workday long.
Morn brings another workday long.

When the early sunbeams break,
You will wonder as you awake,
In what muddy neighbourhood,
There is work and the pleasant food?

Planting rice is no fun!
Bent from morn till set of sun;
Cannot stand, cannot sit,
Cannot rest a little bit.