

Breakout Group on Famine Early Warning 12 Feb. 09

Take approach linking together the **chain of logical and inter-dependent tasks**

Need to have understanding of context, baseline
different levels of existing knowledge according to the country, the area,
ascertain baseline

understand livelihood systems well, including characteristics of crop and livestock production systems

understand **physical determinants of sustainability, viability** of systems
rely on the literature, complemented with local surveys if needed

establish **baseline of physical variables** that determine the viability

To what extent can EO help understand **changes in the resource base**
for countries where the change is rapid (deforestation, changes in water resources, changes in land use patterns, habitat)

How does one **determine the most effective tool** for EO to monitor physical variables

Need to know **timing of key events** (e.g. crop and seasonal calendars)
frequency of observations, and resolution = f(scale and diversity dictate choices)

degree of variety of cropping systems

consider **which parameter to address first**: area or yield (for production)

Seasonal analysis (start of season, replanting, etc.) and anomalies

need to build involvement of and relationship/capacity of **national and regional institutions**

in EW we monitor crop conditions, and production anomalies

then translate into forecast yields and then on to implications for production (availability shortfall)

importance of **calibration** of HR imagery by transects on the ground

Best practices in **convergence of evidence and consensus** reaching

Best practices in **interpretation and translation** of the data and

information to support decisions and response

Best practices in terms of **information dissemination**