

## 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**