
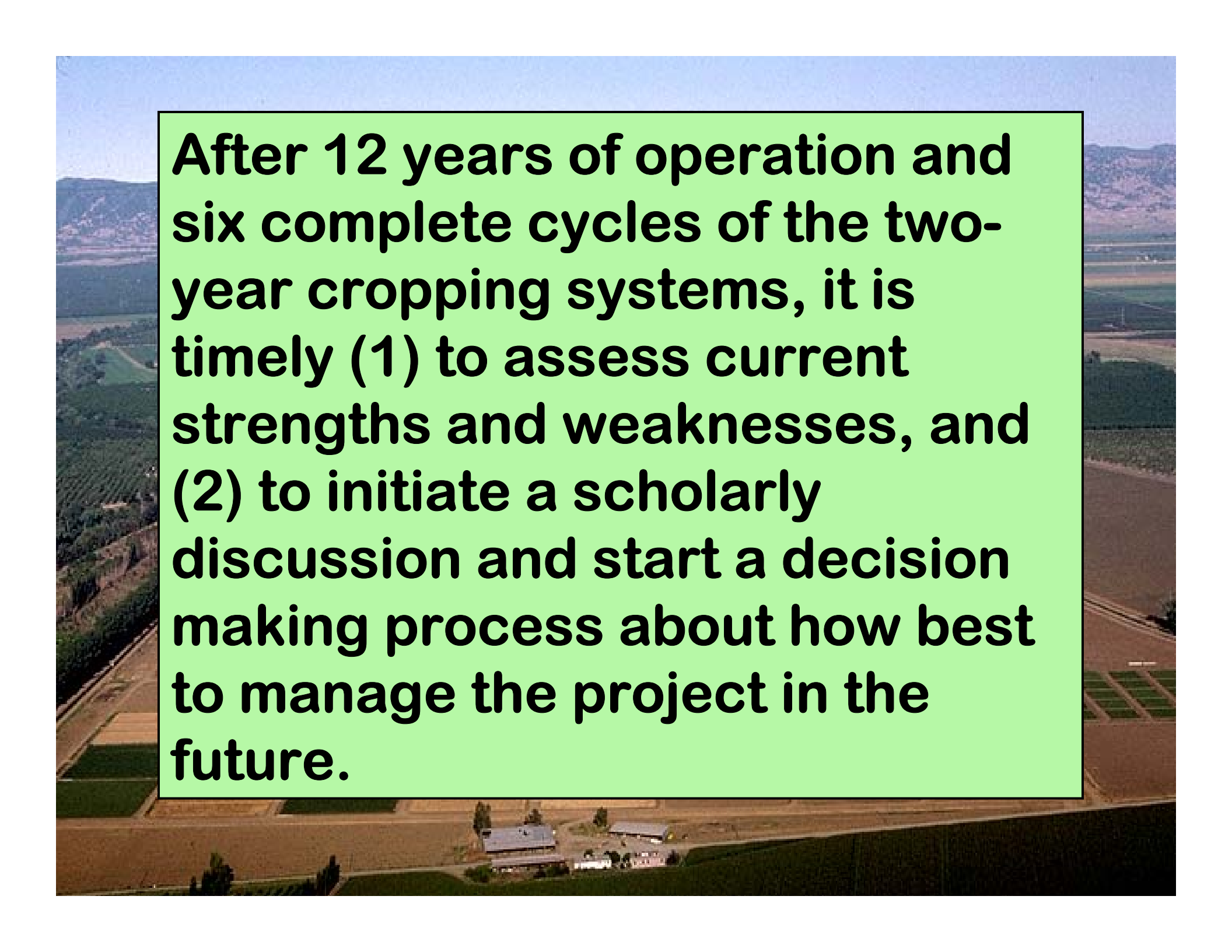


# **LTRAS Assessment and Review**

**Goals and outline**

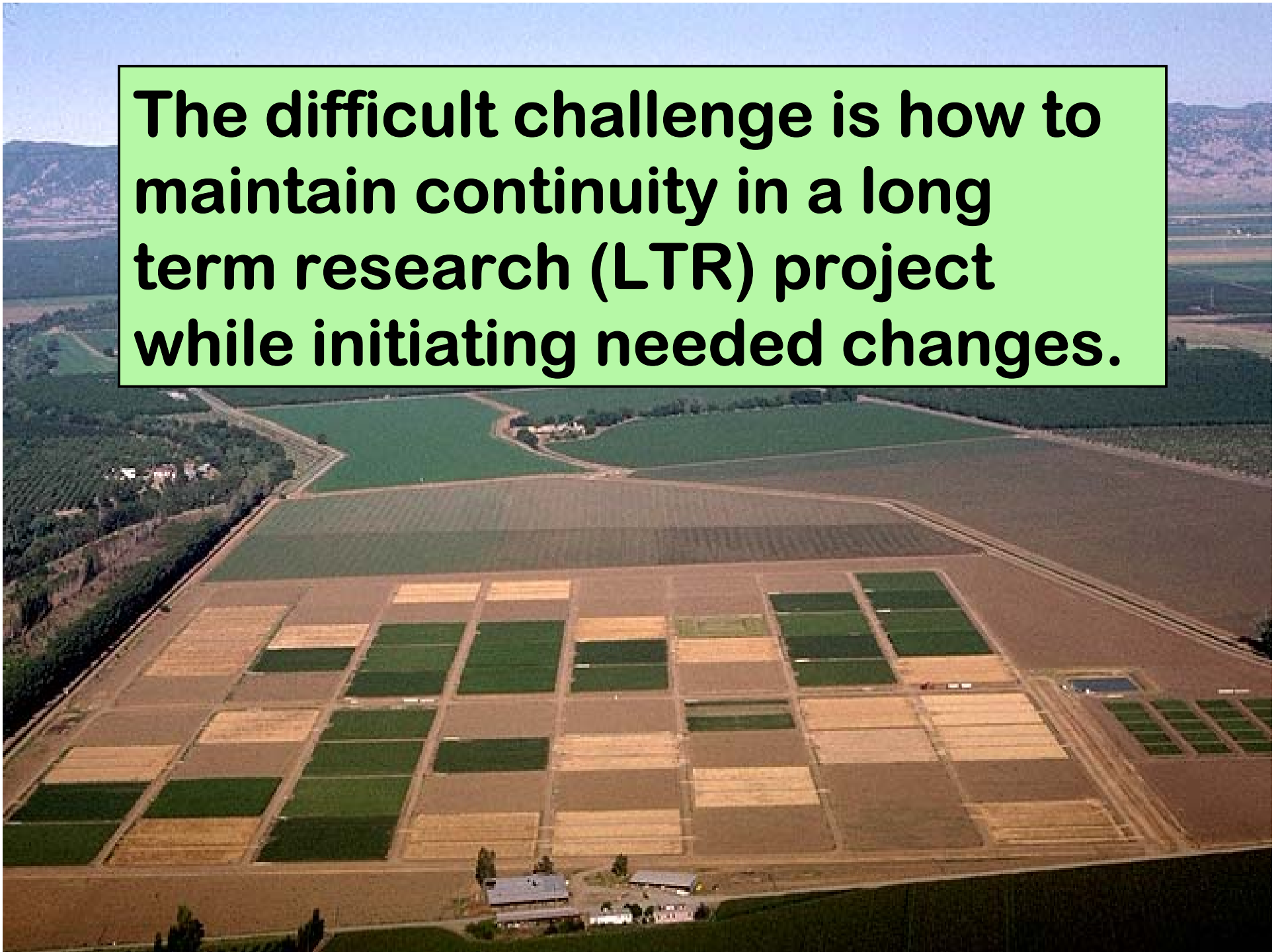
An aerial photograph of a large agricultural field, divided into many rectangular plots. Some plots are green, while others are brown, suggesting different stages of crop growth or different types of crops. In the foreground, there are several buildings, likely a farm or a small village. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

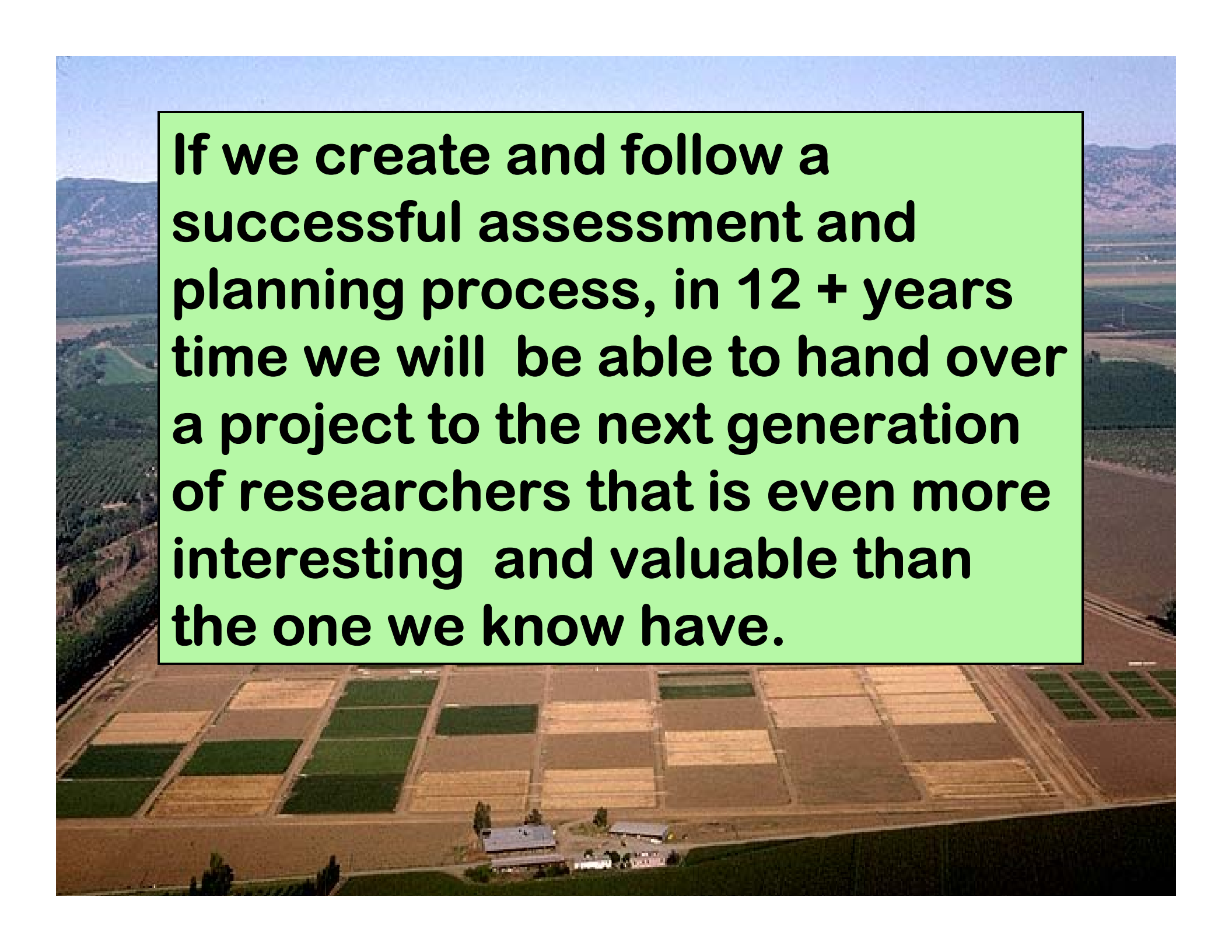
**Long term research projects are uncommon. They differ from each other in some significant ways. Deciding the best way to manage them over time is an ongoing task that is challenging intellectually and institutionally.**

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape, likely a vineyard or orchard, with rows of trees and fields stretching towards the horizon. A large, bright green rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing bold black text. The background shows a mix of green and brown fields, with some buildings visible in the lower center.

**After 12 years of operation and six complete cycles of the two-year cropping systems, it is timely (1) to assess current strengths and weaknesses, and (2) to initiate a scholarly discussion and start a decision making process about how best to manage the project in the future.**

**The difficult challenge is how to maintain continuity in a long term research (LTR) project while initiating needed changes.**



An aerial photograph of a large agricultural field, divided into many rectangular plots. Some plots are green, while others are brown, suggesting different stages of crop growth or soil conditions. In the foreground, there are some buildings and trees. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky.

**If we create and follow a successful assessment and planning process, in 12 + years time we will be able to hand over a project to the next generation of researchers that is even more interesting and valuable than the one we know have.**

# LTRAS Assessment and Planning

## DAY 1

### *Background on the project:*

1. Background and current operation
2. Perspectives on LTR
3. Past, current and future work

## DAY 2

### *New ideas and assessment:*

1. Statistical issues
2. New suggestions
3. Assessment and discussion

# LTRAS Assessment and Planning

## DAY 1

### *Objectives:*

1. Familiarize attendees with the current project, both operations and research
2. Provide perspective on the nature of LTR
3. Use examples from research to highlight strengths and weaknesses

## DAY 2

### *Objectives:*

1. Raise important issues about experimental design and treatment design
2. Provide suggestions for project improvement
3. Assess and discuss suggestions, **create** additional ideas and solutions
4. Plan next steps in the process

## LTRAS Assessment and Planning Process

### Desirable outcomes

1. Any alternatives adopted are significantly better than leaving the project unchanged
2. Diverse interests are reasonably satisfied
3. No useful ideas have been overlooked or left out, i.e., the **outcome (plan)** is among the best of many **Options**
4. The outcome is **legitimate** (seen as fair and sensible, based on reasonable criteria)
5. It is well planned, based on realistic ideas that can be implemented and committed to



# **LTRAS Assessment and Planning Process Characteristics**

**Discussion is effective and efficient:**

**Talk first (this meeting), decide later (subsequent meetings)**

**Balance advocacy with inquiry (inquire to learn, not to persuade)**

**Dig for the data, reveal the reasoning**

**Create new perceptions, don't battle over old ones**

**Think of how as well as what**

## **LTRAS Assessment and Planning Process Characteristics**

**Even if people's initial positions are opposed, that does not mean that their interests are opposed.**

**A good process may create new ideas that were not originally proposed.**