Summary of Session 1: Development of global data sets and models for agro-environmental sciences

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Space agencies and related governmental agencies have developed image archives and derived products that can play an important role in global climate model and land use studies as follows:

- Landsat-7 images at affordable prices
- NDVI global maps from AVHRR
- JERS-1 SAR mosaics
- ADEOS images

Models have been developed to relate land use with processes with global impact including:

- Soil erosion
- Greenhouse gases and global warming

Data exist not only for land use but also for ocean processes (currents, temperature) and rainfall derived from satellite data.

Questions arise on how to join efforts to increase the access of these data and models to developing regions. The maintenance of global databases is a heavy responsibility which cannot be entrusted to single institutions. Consortia should be formed, and training on the use of the data is needed.

No presentations on the management of socioeconomic databases were made in this session, but the same questions apply to these areas.

Models need to be more fully integrated with GIS, taking the spatial dimensions into account rather than just spatializing punctual results.