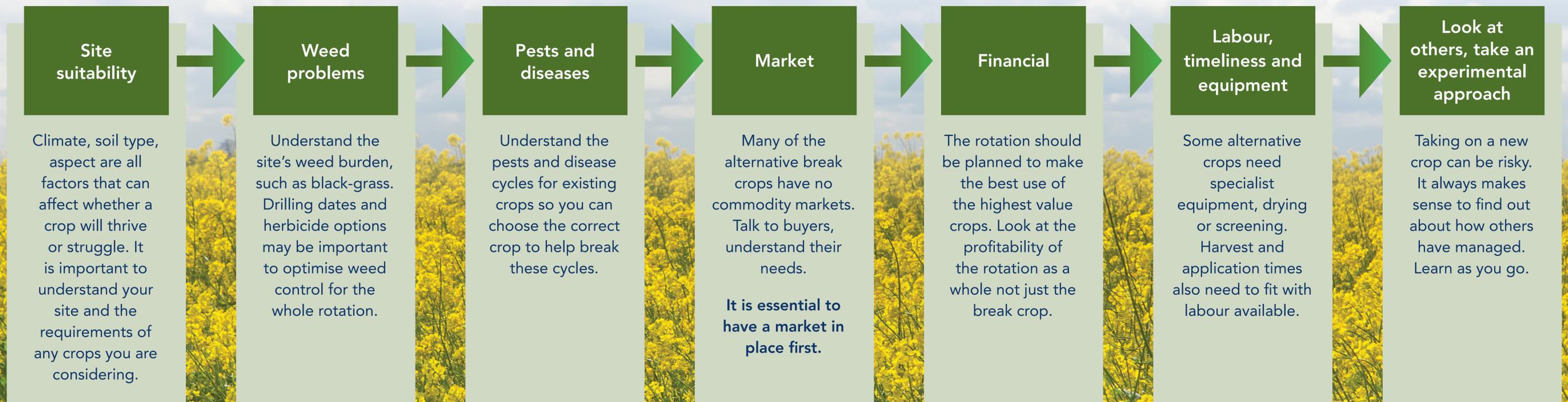




I NEED A BREAK CROP THAT WORKS – WHAT CAN I GROW INSTEAD OF WINTER OILSEED RAPE?

Winter OSR crop failure, due to a dry autumn and/or cabbage stem flea beetle attack, has prompted many growers in some areas of the country to look for alternatives. Following a failure, areas are often re-drilled with a spring crop or cereal. In the short term this lowers the gross margin for that crop, in the longer term it can reduce profitability for the rotation as a whole. Where careful crop husbandry permits, OSR is still the most profitable break crop for many UK arable growers.

There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration when choosing a break crop. We need to look at what crops we grow profitably and make sure the rotation is designed around them, before we look at which break crops to use. We need to consider all aspects of pest, disease and weed control. Long-term planning should be based on the long-term profitability of a field and not on a single season's predicted margin.



NIAB TAG Membership

This is a brief example of the research information, digital tools and advice delivered alongside NIAB TAG's extensive and exclusive member-funded field trials programme, supplying impartial cost effective crop production strategies specifically for our members. Sign up today with our FREE 90 DAY TRIAL at niab.com and be ready for our *Alternative Break Crops Guide* coming soon.