



Water Management and Soil Conservation

for a climate resilient agriculture



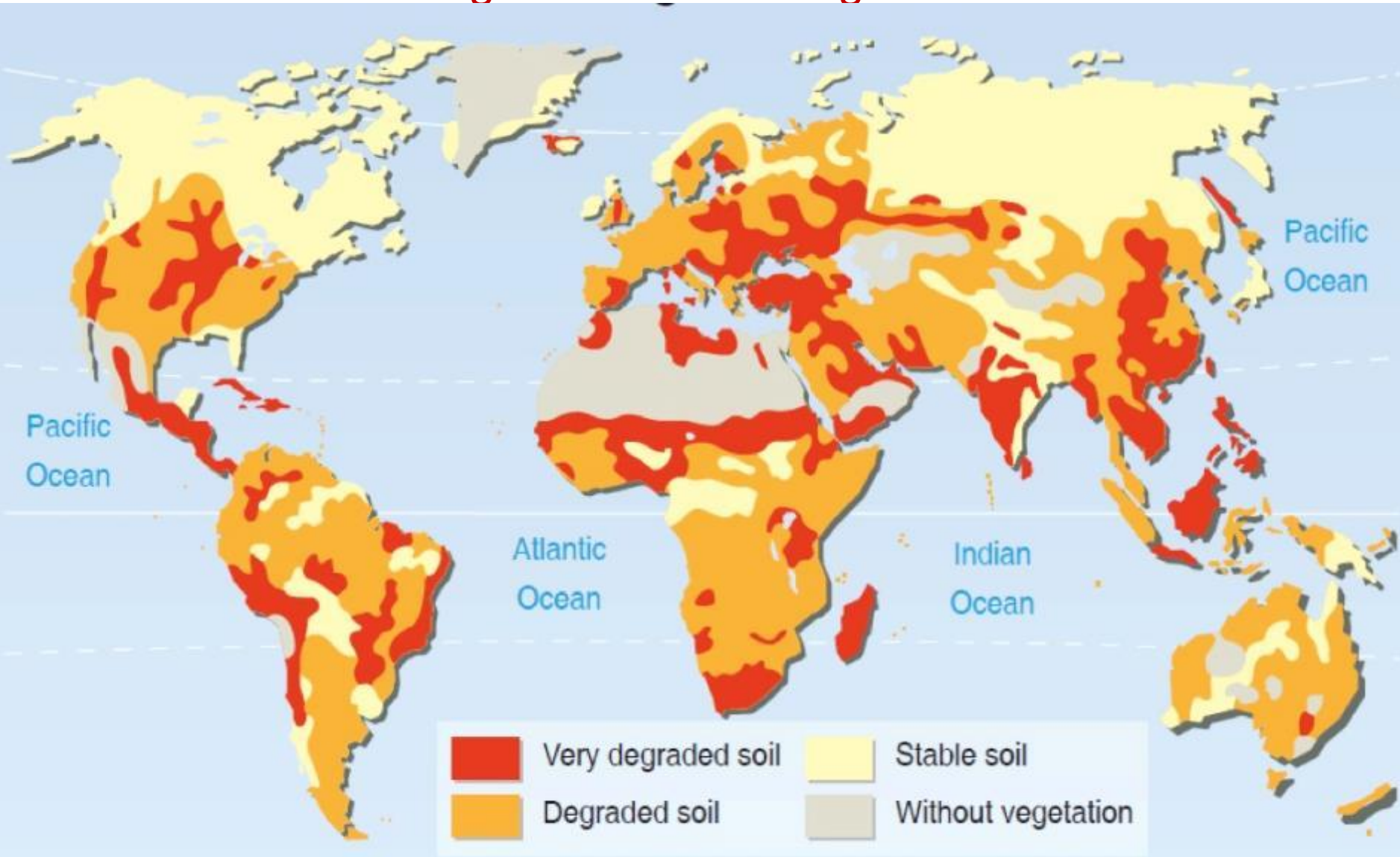


Learning goals of this module

Participants are able to...

- ... position water use in agriculture and erosion into a wider context
- ... choose from a spectrum of agricultural water and soil management practices
- ... summarize and critically appraise sustainable water use and soil management in agriculture

Alarming rates of land degradation

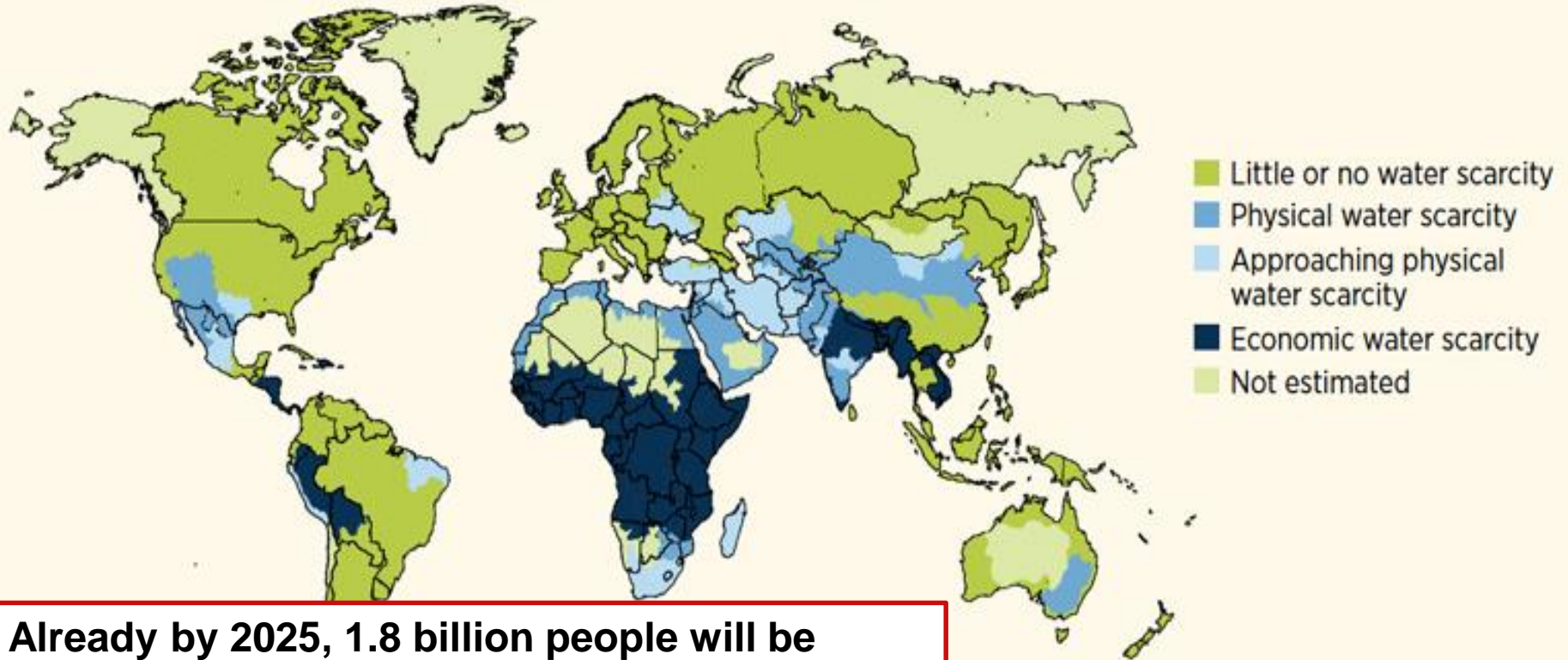


Source: UNEP, International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC), World Atlas of Desertification, 1997.

Philippe Rekacewicz, UNEP/GRID-Arendal



Global physical and economic water scarcity



Already by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world population could live under water stress conditions.

(UN Water, 2013)

Source: World Water Development Report 4, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), March 2012



Available Water on Earth



Source: Igor A. Shiklomanov, State Hydrological Institute (SHI, St. Petersburg) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, Paris), 1999.



SADC – a very water scarce region

Situation overview

- Southern Africa is a very water scarce region
- Impacts of climate change are worsening the situation (with droughts and floods sometimes even occurring in the same locations) – extreme weather events increase
- Water of several big transboundary rivers is already over allocated; consequences for environment, increased business risks and also political implications
 - Environmental minimum flow
 - Water quality
 - Water availability
 - Example: Orange River
 - Example: Limpopo River



SADC – a very water scarce region

Situation overview

- World water forum declared water security last year as No. 1 business risk world wide !!!
- SADC region is going through the worst drought since 35 years (2015/16), regional drought disaster has been declared in July 2016
- Two Examples:
 - Botswana, 2015: Dam for water supply of the capital has been filled at the end of last rainy season to 2.1 %, severe water restrictions, partly people for weeks without water supply, supermarkets run out of drinking water.
 - South Africa, 2015, Drought in KZN, severe water restrictions, agricultural water supply restricted, set up of emergency schemes for cross basin water transfer (expensive)



SADC – a very water scarce region

Situation overview

Impact of the current (2015/16) drought:

- Cereal deficit: 9,3 Million tons
- 643.000 cattle already perished
- Food insecure population increased by 31% since 2015
- 40 Million people in SADC are food insecure (2016-2017 marketing year) and will need humanitarian assistance



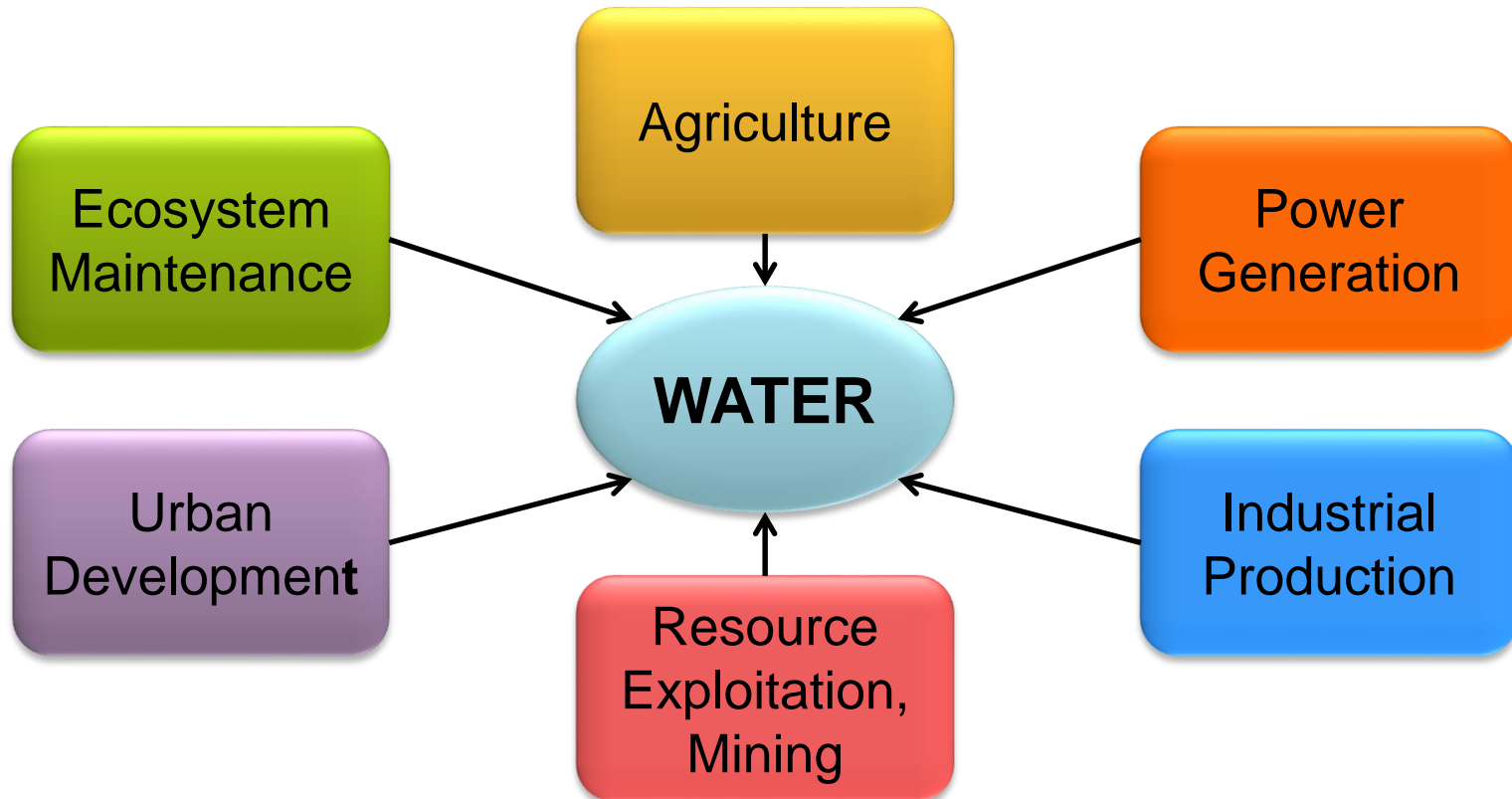
SADC – a very water scarce region

Situation overview

- Several countries in our region are already importing water from their neighbours
 - 50% of Namibia's population relies on water from Angola
 - Botswana gets water from South Africa
 - RSA imports water from Lesotho
 - 60 % of the water supply in Gauteng is supplied by Lesotho
- Other projects are already on the way:
 - Transboundary water supply between Swaziland und Mozambique
 - Water supply from Lesotho to Botswana (900 km!)



Competition for water





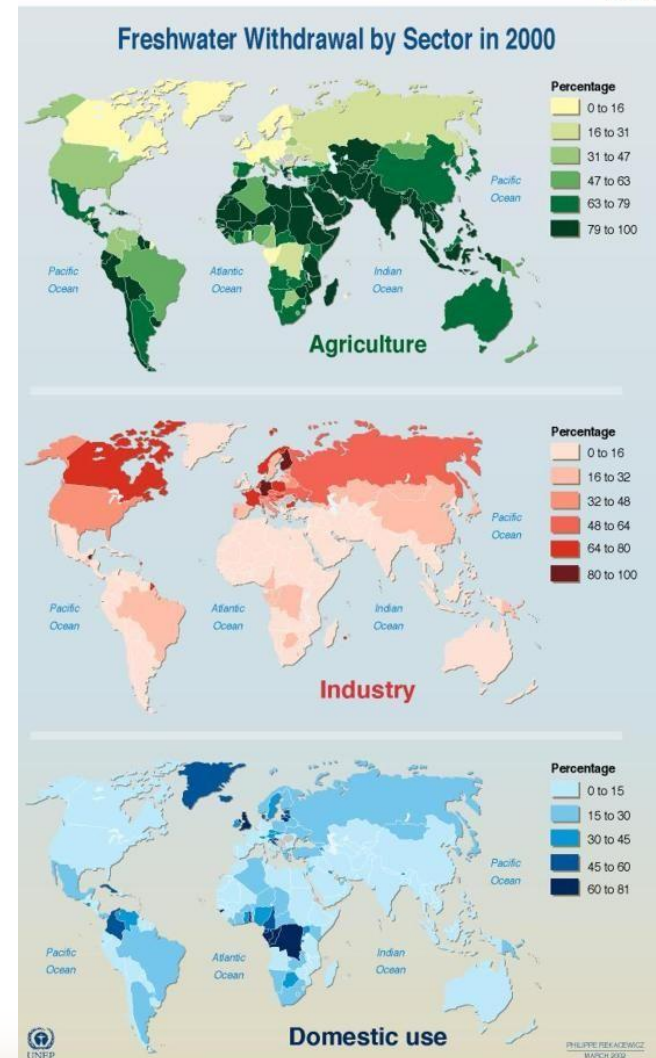
Agricultural water use

Agriculture is the biggest water user world wide and accounts for approx. 70 % of the total fresh water withdrawal.

Whereas the industry and domestic sectors are already undergoing radical changes to increase water use efficiency.

Agriculture still has huge scope for improvements and can make water available for additional production through improvements in water use efficiency and modern water and soil management.

10 a



The Challenge



How to **reduce** withdrawals from water resources for agriculture while at the same time increasing agricultural production and maintaining essential environmental flows?

In other words:

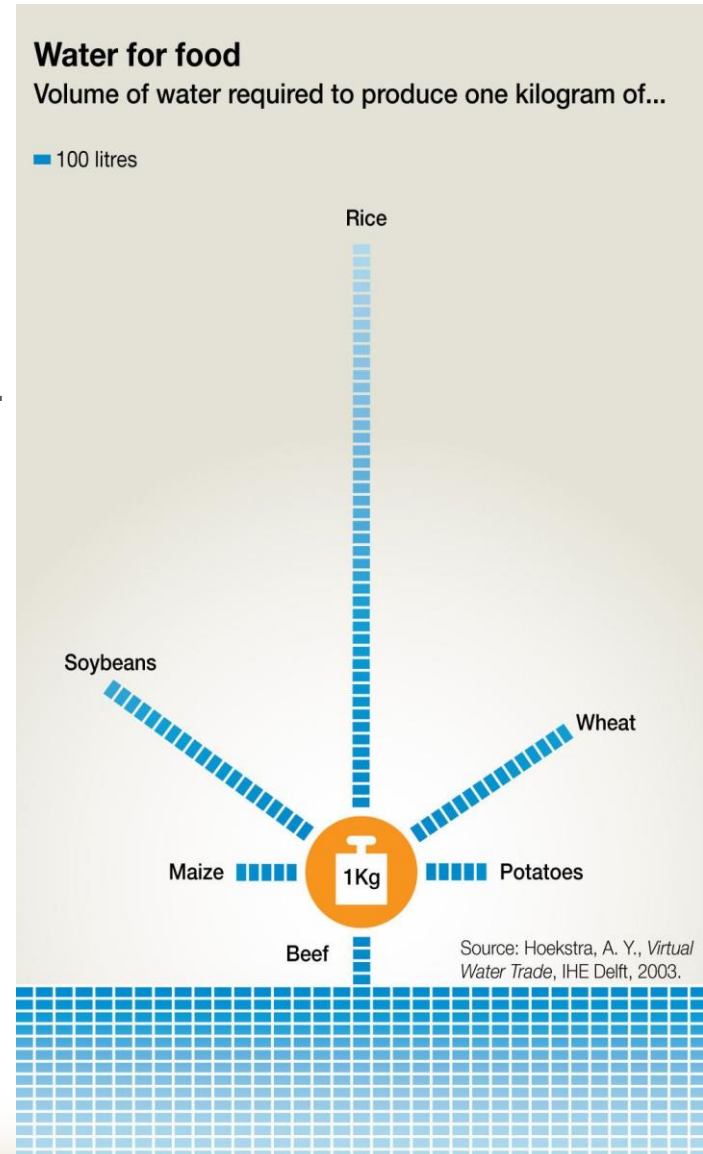
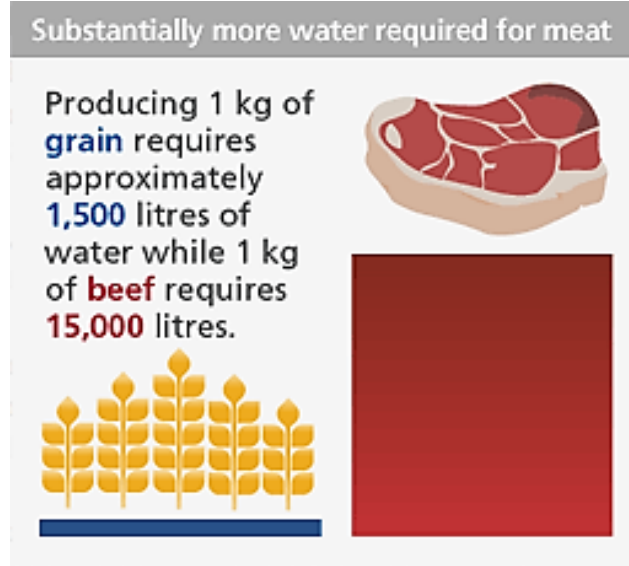
How to promote **sustainable** enhancement of **systemic water productivity in agriculture**: on the field and in the water catchments?



Water for food security

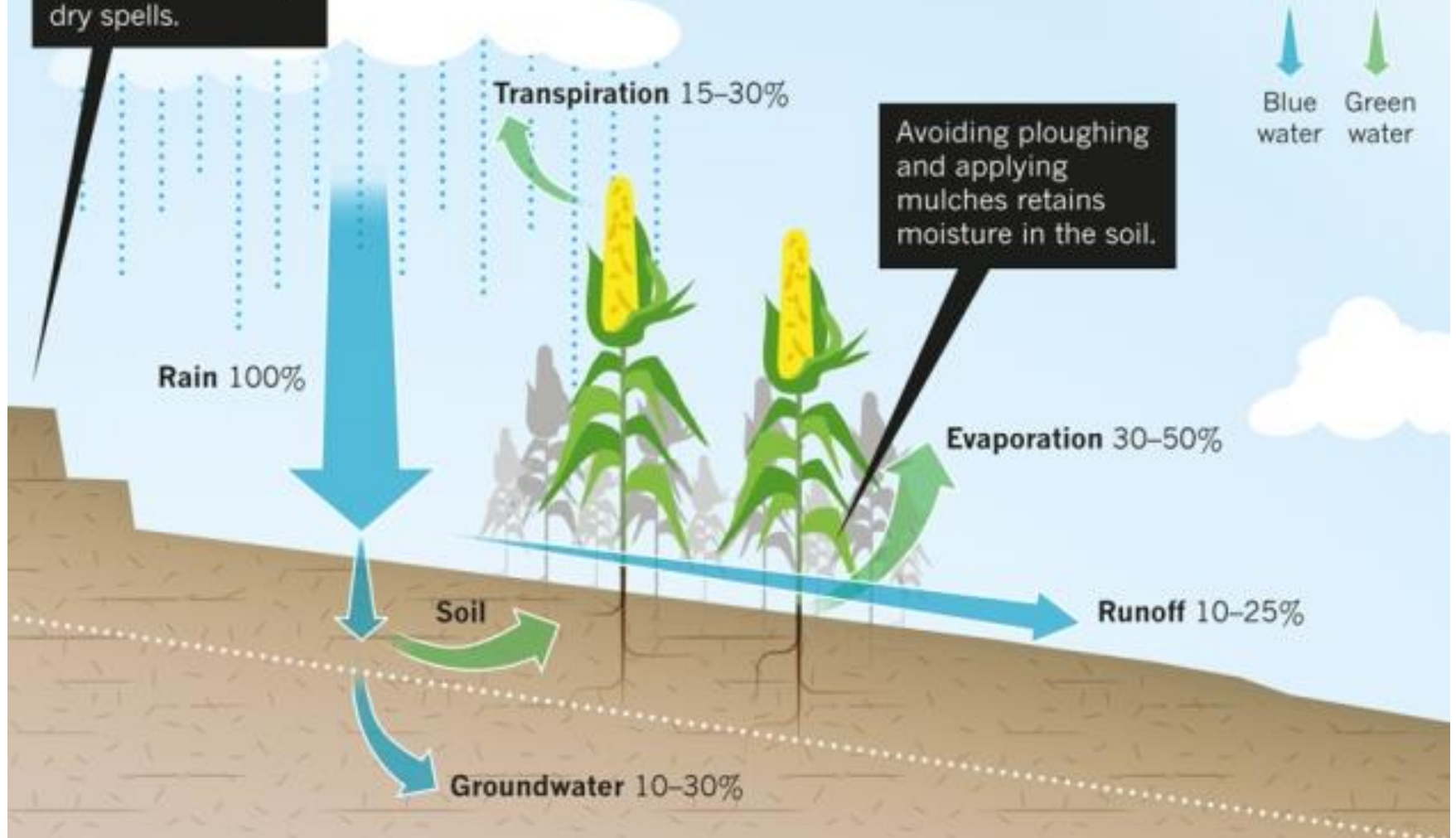
Food production needs to increase by 60% by 2050 to satisfy the demand of a population of more than 9 billion people.

Source: FAO, Coping with Water Scarcity, 2012



SUB-SAHARAN WATER BALANCE

Crops consume less than one-third of rainfall in semi-arid regions. Up to half of the water evaporates directly from the soil. The rest runs off the surface or recharges groundwater.





Crop water need

“[...] The crop water need (ET crop) is defined as the depth (or amount) of water needed to meet the water loss through evapotranspiration. In other words, it is the amount of water needed by the various crops to grow optimally[...].”



ET crop = crop evapotranspiration = crop water need



How to increase the water use efficiency ???

- Apply water directly where it is consumed (drip irrigation, bottle solution for small fields)
- Prefer irrigation in the early morning or evening, even at night - but never during full sunshine
- Support the water storage capacity on the field (ditches, mulch, higher organic content etc.)
- Shade netting
- Use drought tolerant and water efficient varieties





Soil and water conservation

Climate Smart Agriculture
Concepts and Technologies for Sustainable
Use of Water and Soil



Soil and water conservation (SWC) – main points

Technical principles of conservation

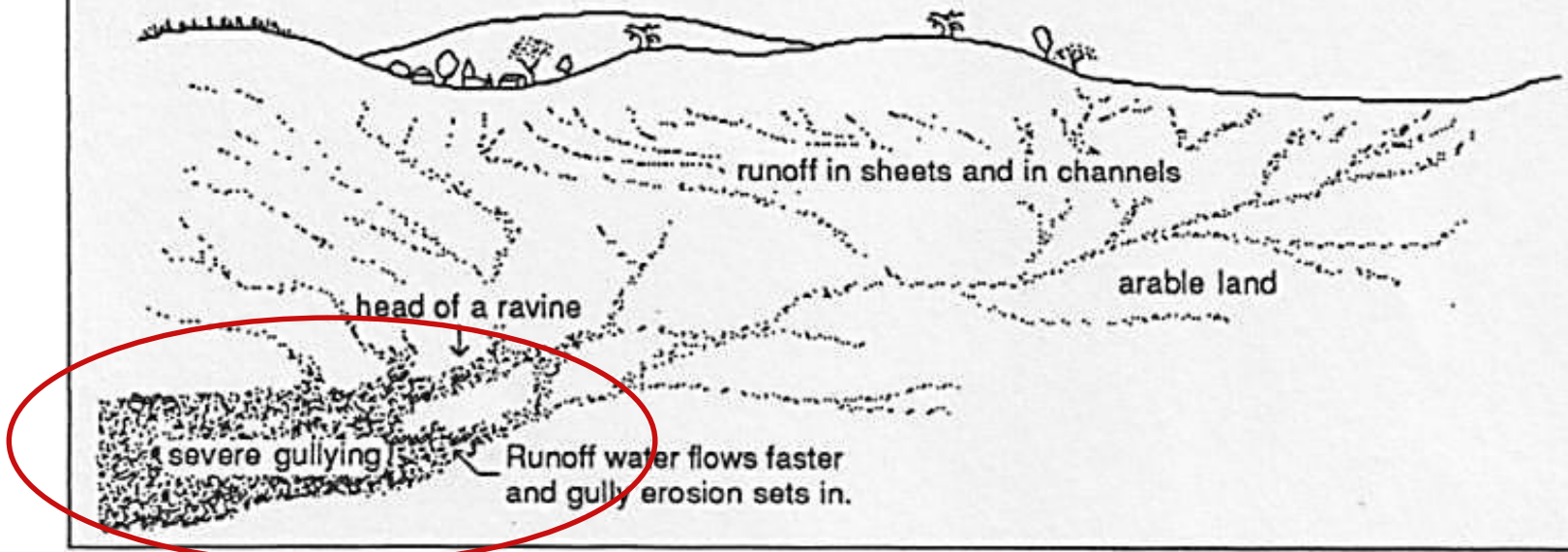
- Reduce erosive power of rain drops by keeping the soil covered
- Fight erosion at its source and retain water where it falls (facilitate infiltration)
- Reduce speed of water flowing down slopes with constructions (e.g. gabions, erosion blankets/geotextile etc.)
- Store and reuse of water for irrigation

Organisational aspects

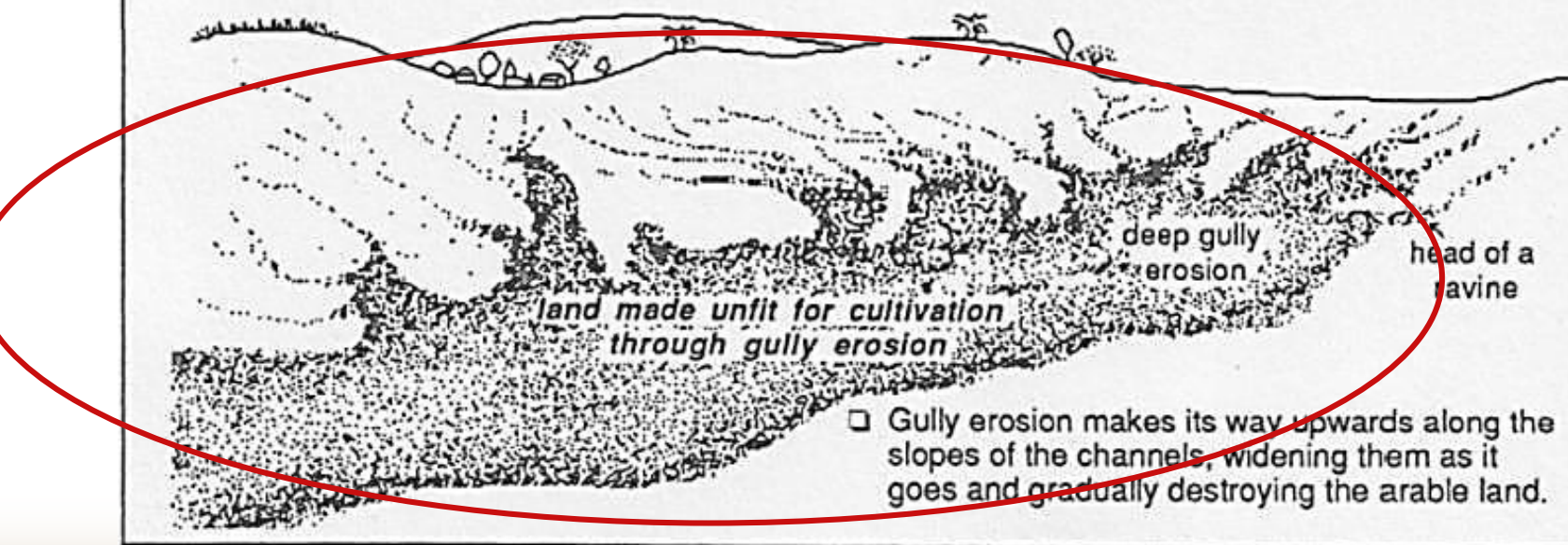
- SWC requires a collective action
- Catchment approach and village land-use planning



First year



Fourth year





Erosion on grasslands





Practical Examples I

Wetland rehabilitation and Rangeland Management in Lesotho (SADC-GIZ)



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH





Re-planting/Reseeding Concentrated and controlled herding Improved Rangeland Management





Technologies of erosion control

Biological methods:

- Contour planting of crops, mixed cropping and mulching
- Vegetation strips along contour



© WAC

Mechanical methods:

- Terracing
- Infiltration ditches along contour lines
- Earth bunds: retain surface water
- Stone bunds: allow water to permeate but reduce flow velocity considerably



© GIZ



Increasing the infiltration

Contour trenches



Circular bunds



Semi-circular bunds



Plant pits with mulch





Water conservation / Increase in water use efficiency

- Key factor for resilience building in agriculture
 - Increased storage capacities for water
 - Rainwater harvesting
 - Flood Water Retention / Flood Water Harvesting
 - Water reuse (Grey water use)
 - Use of waste water in Agriculture
 - Efficient irrigation („More crop per drop“)



Water harvesting in practice



Source: http://www.searnet.net/fileadmin/Experiences_in_promoting_In-Situ_RW_technologies.pdf



© www.senwes.co.za

**Example
(Video): Water
harvesting in
Bolivia as a way
to adapt to
climate change**

Climate Protection in Bolivia: The importance of water management | Global 3000
DW (English)

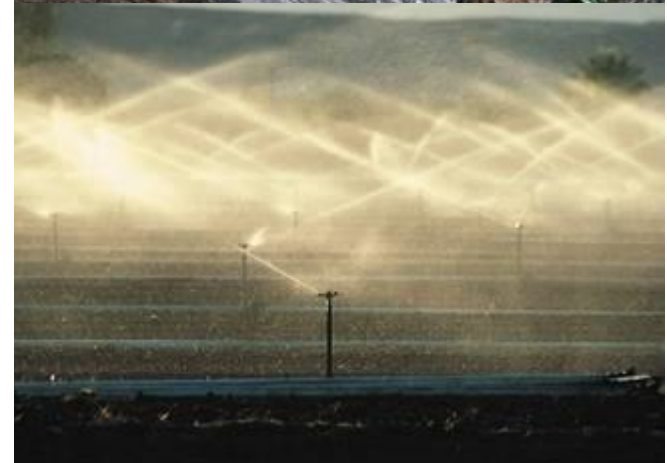


4 main types of irrigation systems

- Irrigation by flooding
- Sprinkler irrigation
- Irrigation with buckets or cans
- Drip irrigation

Depending on

- Natural conditions
- Previous experience with irrigation /Knowledge
- Type of crop
- Required labor inputs costs and benefits
- Type of technology
- Financial ability



Source: <http://nrcca.cals.cornell.edu/soil/CA3/CA0324.php>

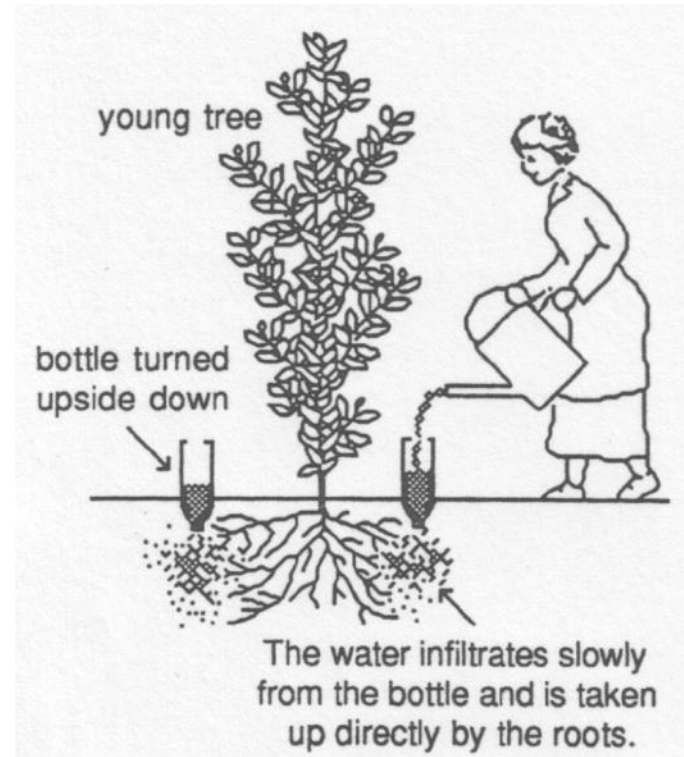


Drip irrigation

Low cost systems



Plastic bottles – simple and very efficient





Practical Examples II



Flood and rain water harvesting and efficient irrigation in Northern Namibia (Cuve waters)





Practical Examples III

Flood water harvesting for agriculture In Mozambique (SADC-GIZ)





Waste Water and Grey water Reuse in Agriculture - a sensitive matter -

- Huge advantages by far outweigh the risks.
- Huge available water resource in water scarce areas.
- Already existing unregulated use from rivers and streams (people are often not aware – more dangerous).
- Open discussion of possible use of waste water often reveals big sensitivities around the matter.
- Excellent water source comes with already with fertilizer.
- Global paradigm shift from parameter driven approach towards risk assessment and related measures.
- National legislations often not up to date.



Waste Water and Grey Water Reuse in Agriculture

WHO guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater (2006)

Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater - Volume 1

Policy and regulatory aspects

Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater - Volume 2

Wastewater use in agriculture

Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater - Volume 3

Wastewater and excreta use in aquaculture

Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater - Volume 4

Excreta and greywater use in agriculture





Waste Water Reuse in Agriculture

In the past:

- **Parameter centred** approach with unjustifiably restrictive standards
- Wastewater treatment as only control mechanism – doubt on reliability of operations, financial implications, etc.
- Not supportive for WW reuse in Agriculture

Today:

- **Risk assessment** centred approach taking into account:
- Type of Wastewater treatment
- Type of crops produced/permited
- Type of irrigation technique used/permited
- Control of human exposure (Farmers, workers, neighbours, crop handlers, consumers)



“Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel Prizes – one for peace and one for science”

John F Kennedy



Thank you for your attention !!!!





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