



Presentation from
**2015 World Water
Week in Stockholm**

www.worldwaterweek.org

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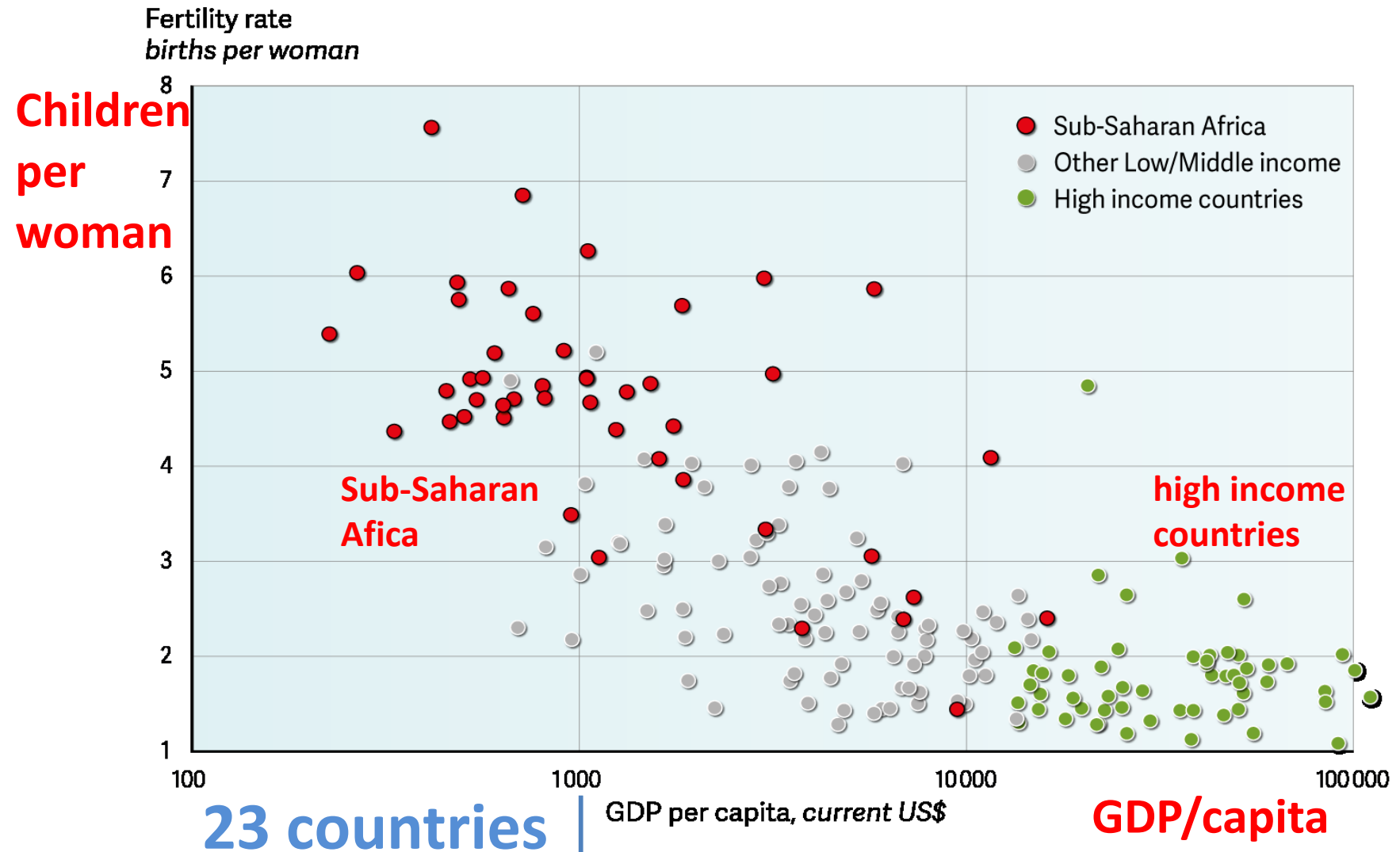
World Water Week 2015

**Towards Green Water Based
Economic Development in
Sub-Saharan Africa**

Malin Falkenmark

SRC and SIWI

Remaining poverty in Africa



Alleviating hunger and poverty

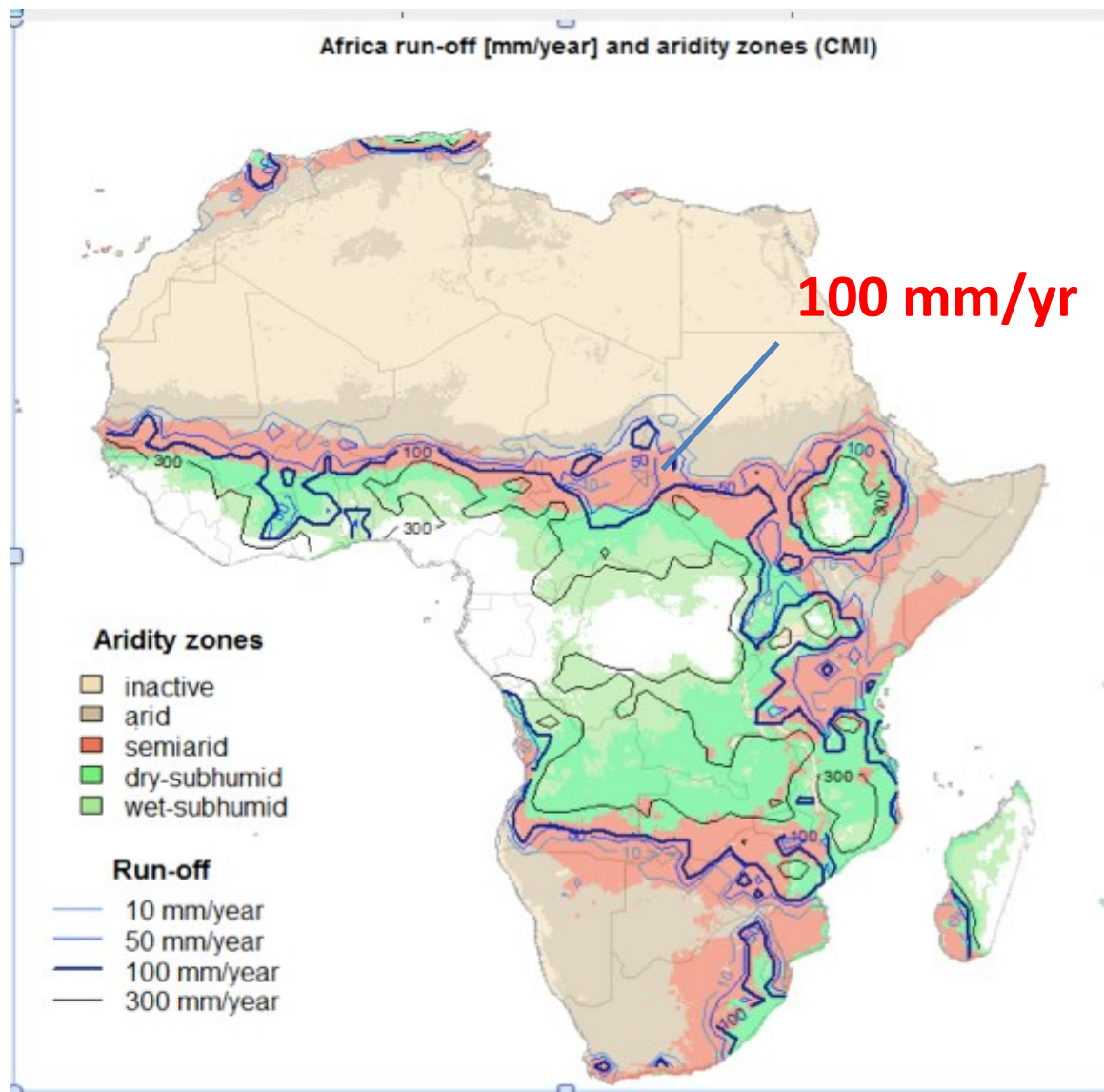
what is holding Africa back??

arid climate?

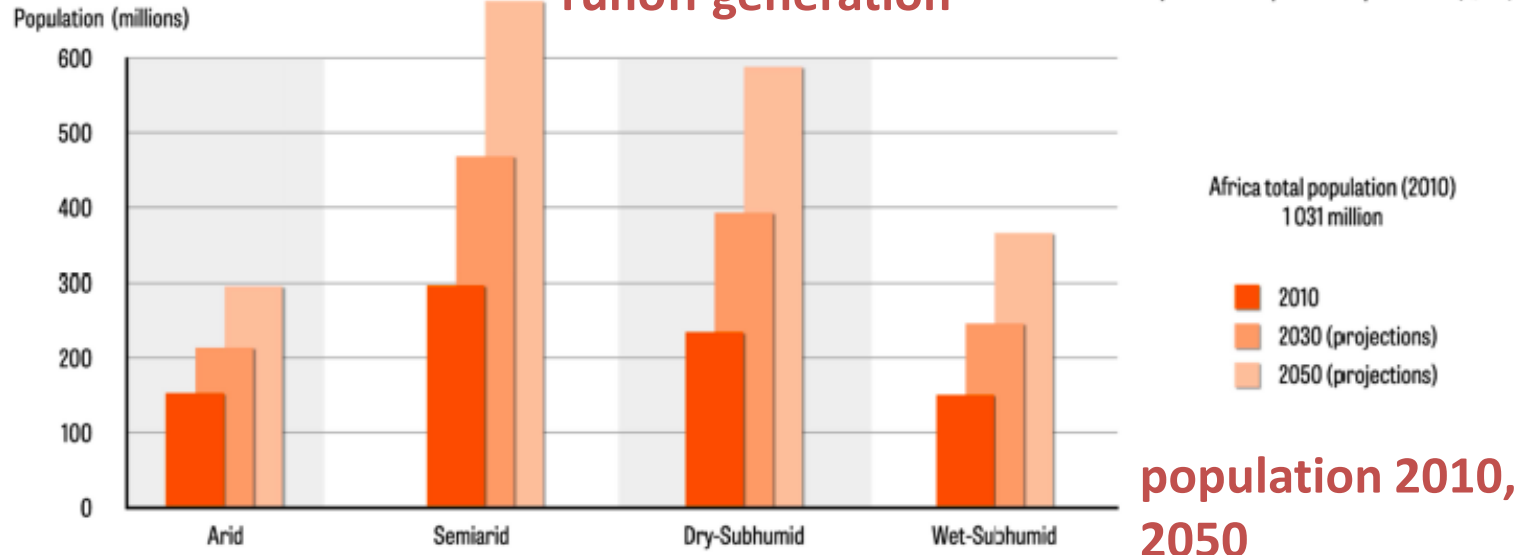
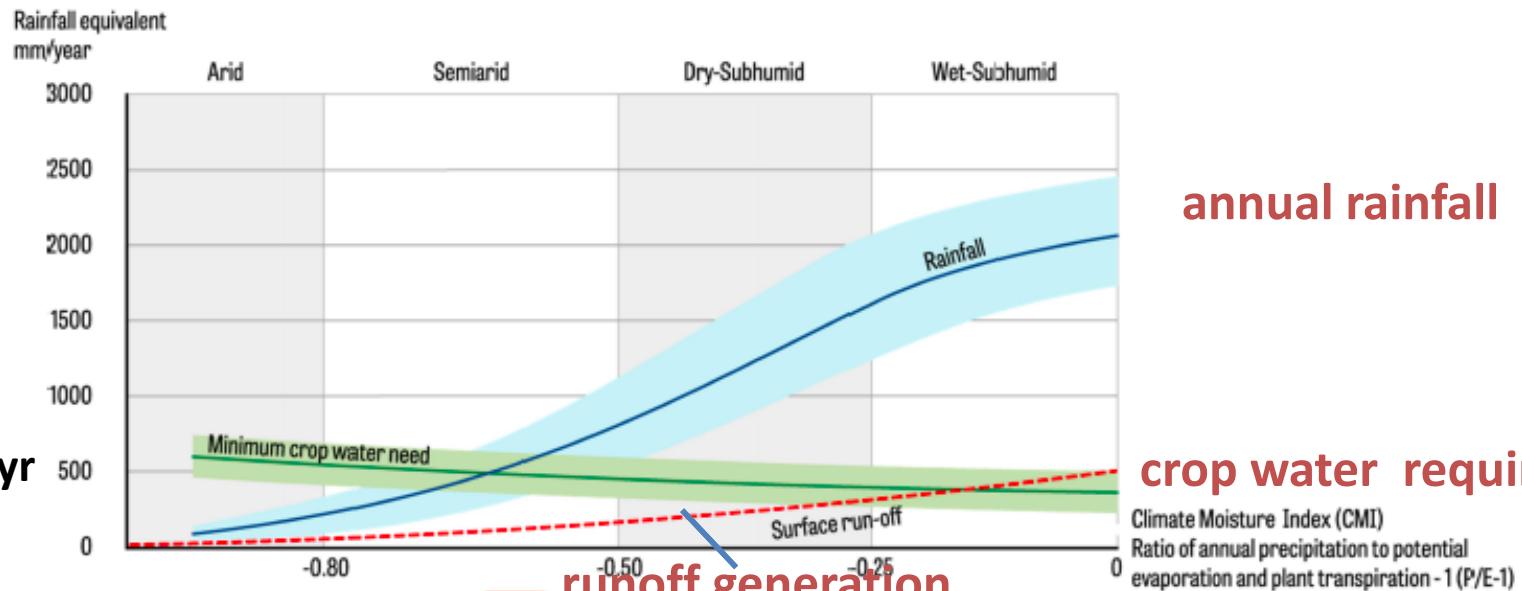
*most rain

evaporates

*limited runoff
generation



Sub-Saharan predicament



Rainfed agriculture

SMALLHOLDER FARMING

- typical yield 1 ton/ha only
much below potential

- why?

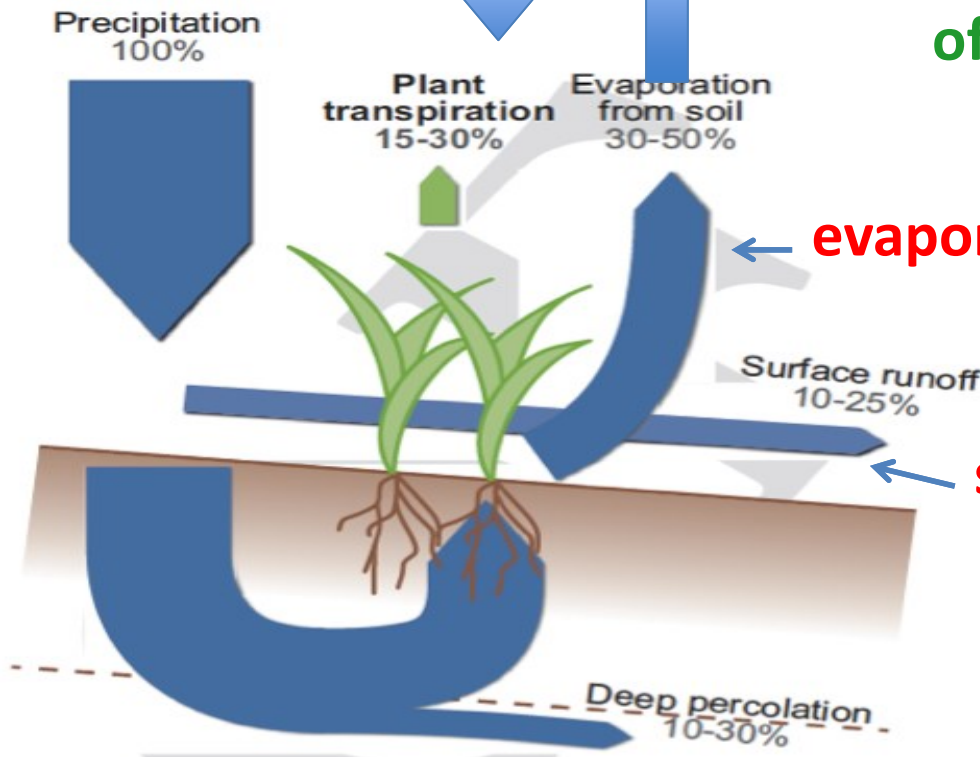
enormous water losses

→ MAKE BETTER USE OF RAIN

Make better use of the rain

By **WATER HARVESTING**
for supplementary irrigation

aim= vapour shift
reduce soil evaporation by
helping roots take up more
of the water in the root zone



evaporation

large losses

surfce runoff

Experience elsewhere

- **India**

- vast revival of water harvesting
 - old traditional practise

- **China**

- rainwater harvesting on massive scale
 - 1990's Gansu region

Alleviating hunger and poverty

- **Africa's Green Revolution**

→ rainwater based

Asia's = irrigation based

Triple Green Revolution

"green" — green water focus
— sustainability oriented
— "green revolution" = increased productivity

Conclusion

- **alleviating hunger in Africa**
 - mainly rainfed agriculture on savanna ca 90 %
 - irrigation only along river corridors ca 10 %
- **historical mistake of Open Working Group:**
 - **overlooked Africa's water predicament**
taking blue water for granted

Seminar

- * how can rainwater management contribute to unlocking poverty traps in small-holder farming systems?**
- what will be crucial policies and strategies to make such innovations successful and possible to scale up?**
- * how to bring to the attention of UN Gen Ass?**