Areas of water-limited, rain-fed agriculture or “hotspots” (red hatching) are overlain on a map showing the potential for rainwater harvesting in terms of number of 1 000 m³ ponds per km². This map layer is derived from water balance data and the many places where “hotspots” overlap areas of significant water harvesting can be viewed as “hopespots” where rainwater harvesting may be able to improve food security.

Annual water balance is an estimate of the available runoff after evapotranspiration—water that is potentially available for water harvesting. Yellow indicates areas of runoff deficit; blue indicates areas of runoff surplus. The red hatching overlaying the water balance map shows where population density of greater than 20 persons per km² coincides with areas defined as arid or semi-arid.