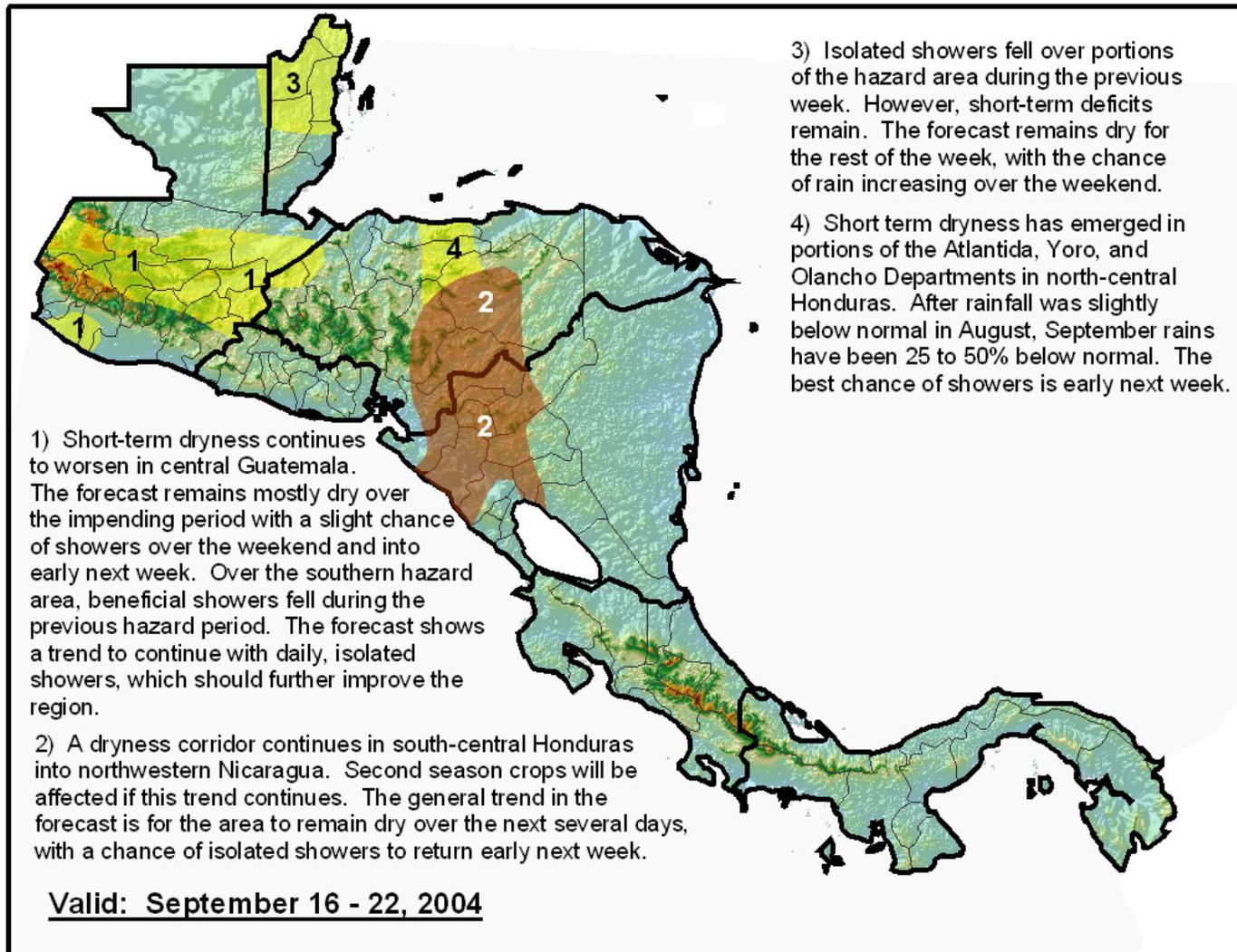


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

**September 16 - 22, 2004**



1. Short-term dryness continues to worsen in central Guatemala. Over the past several weeks the dry axis has spread across the country, even now extending into extreme western sections of Honduras. The forecast remains mostly dry over the impending period with a slight chance of showers over the weekend and into early next week. Over the southern hazard area, some beneficial showers fell during the previous hazard period. The forecast shows a trend to continue with daily, isolated showers, which should further improve the region.
2. Dry weather in south-central Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua is becoming more of a concern as the weeks pass with little to no rainfall. To local areas, the Primera season was a complete failure, and now that the Postrera season planting is close to completion, dry weather pattern will continue to stress crops. This area should be monitored close as crop failures are likely to repeat if the dry weather persists over the next month or so. The forecast keeps the dry trend in place, while there is a slight chance for showers early next week.
- 3) Isolated showers fell over portions of northern Belize during the past week. However, some short-term deficits do remain. The forecast continues dry for the rest of the week, with the chance of rainfall increasing over the weekend.
- 4) Short term dryness has emerged in portions of the Atlantida, Yoro, and Olancho Departments in north-central Honduras. After rainfall was slightly below normal in August, September rains have been 25 to 50% below normal. Postrera crops should have been planted at this point, so the area will continue to be monitored. The best chance of showers is early next week.

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