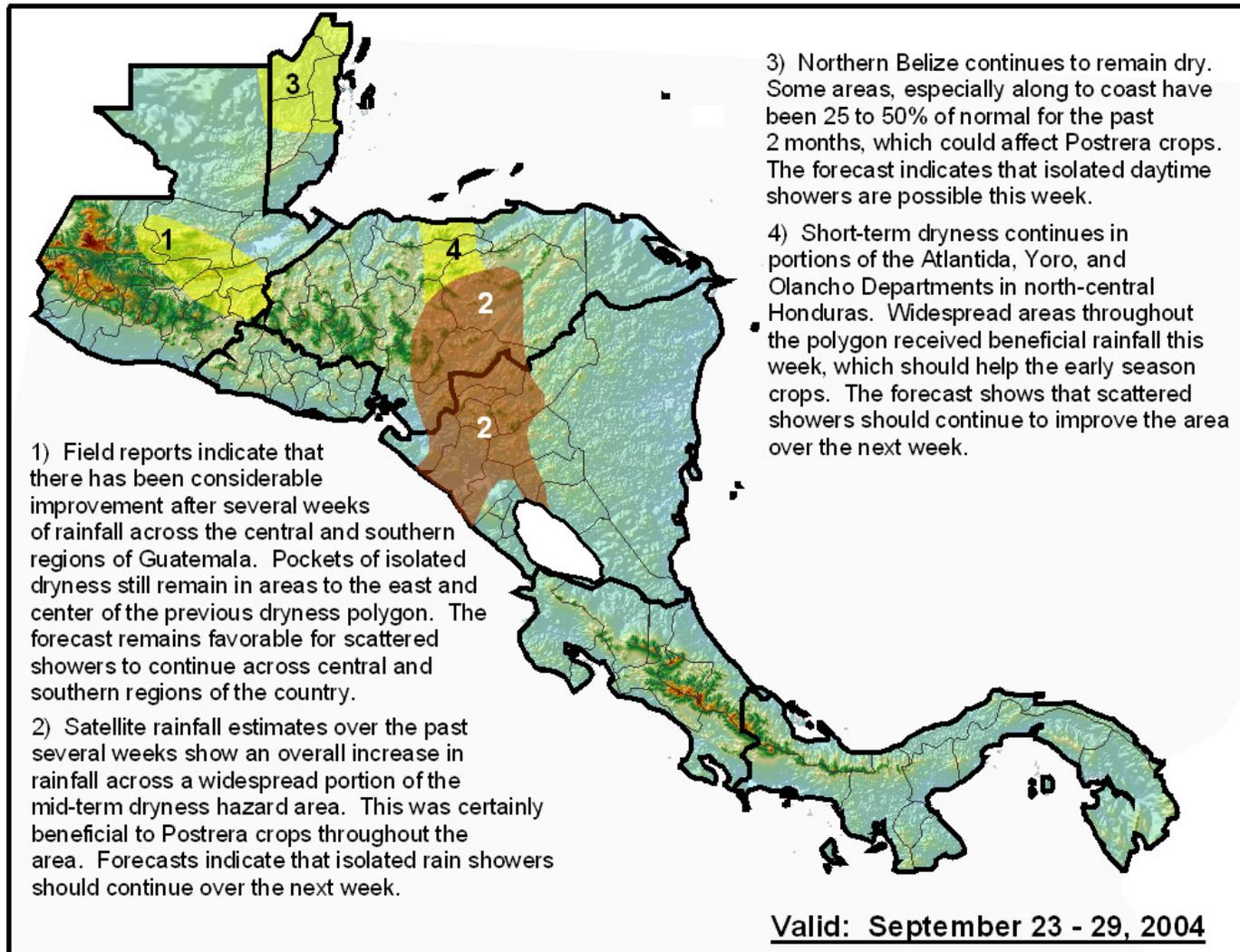


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

September 23 - 29, 2004



1. Recent field reports from representatives in Guatemala state that conditions have widely improved over much of the short-term dryness areas in central, western and southern portions of the country. Therefore, this week, the polygon regions have been removed for some of the improved areas. Some hazard regions still remain in central and eastern Guatemala based on the same report that states that stations within this polygon are about 20% of normal for the month of September. This is reinforced by satellite derived products over the same general area. The forecast continues to show improvement over the next week as daily rain showers should continue.
2. Seasonal dryness remains in northwestern Nicaragua and south-central Honduras despite the recent report that indicates significant rain has fallen over several departments in Nicaragua. For much of the area, the Primera season was a failure and for August and the first half of September (start of the Postrera season) rains were below normal. Recent rains should help alleviate the dry areas by replenishing soil moisture and water supplies. The forecast indicates that rain showers are possible over the next week.
3. Regions in northern Belize remained mostly dry over the previous hazard period. Deficits are continuing to mount especially along the immediate coastal zones where totals are running 25 to 50% of normal for the Postrera season. Forecast models indicate that there is a slight chance for daily showers for the impending hazard period. NOAA/FEWS-NET will try to obtain a field report for this area by next week's assessment.
4. This polygon region, which is similar to area number two, received beneficial rainfall during the past week. This should significantly improve areas where second season crops were planted. The forecast shows that rain showers should continue through this week.

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