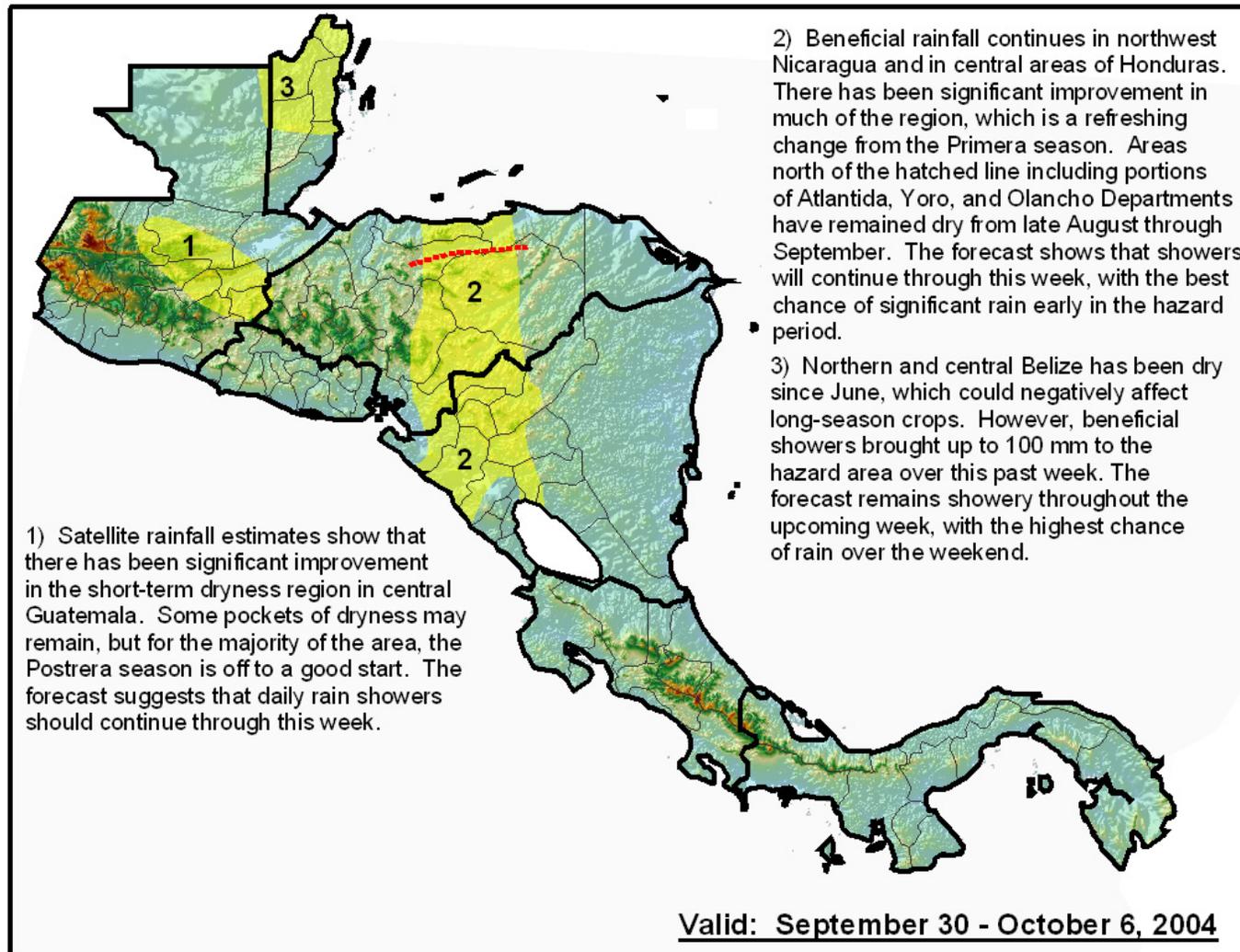


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

for

September 30 – October 6, 2004



1. Pockets of short-term dryness in central Guatemala remain from the Primera and the first half of the Postrera seasons. According to ground reports and satellite rainfall estimates, the region highlighted received scattered showers, which had rainfall totals from 25 to 75 mm. This should bring temporary relief to Postrera crops. The forecast indicates that daily showers will continue throughout the area for the upcoming period.
2. Significant rainfall continues to fall in central Honduras and southward into northwestern Nicaragua. The past several weeks have seen similar patterns, which should help the highlighted area rebound from early season deficits. In fact, rainfall estimates show that the highlighted area is 50 to 100 mm above normal for the Postrera season (August and September). Field reports also indicate similar conditions throughout the region. The exception is in the region north of the red dashed line. In pockets along the Atlantic coast in Honduras, rainfall is still below normal stretching back over the past several weeks. The forecast calls for showers to continue this week with the best chance of rain coming early in the hazard period.
3. Field reports received this week state that the region highlighted in north-central Belize has been abnormally dry since June. Over the past week, the most significant rain showers in months fell across the area, where estimated totals were from 100 to 150 mm. This should bring some short-term relief to the region's water supplies and soil moisture. This week the forecast suggests that isolated showers will continue with a good chance of significant rain over the weekend and into early next week.

AUTHOR: Kevin B Laws