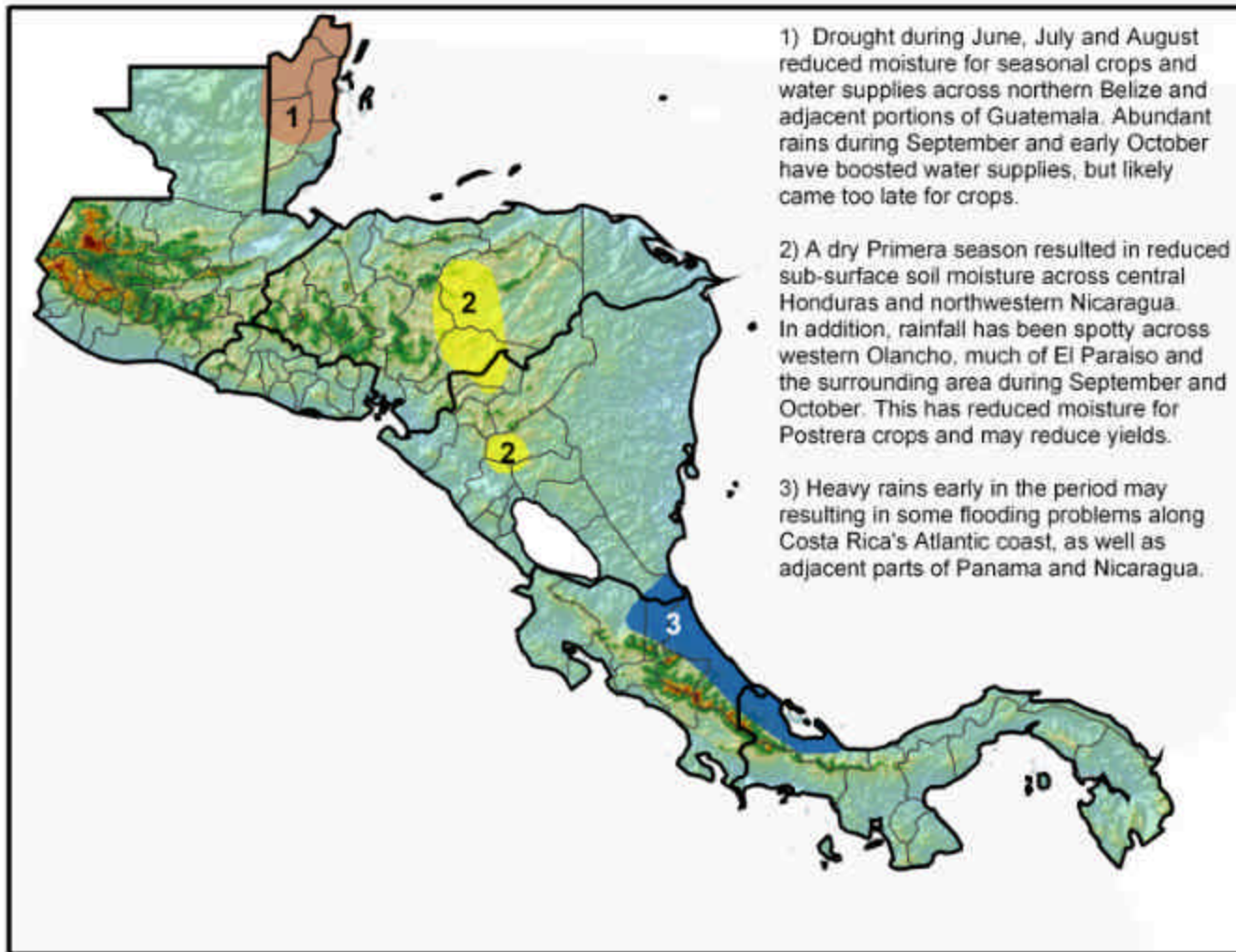


# The MFEWS

## Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For

October 28 – November 3, 2004



## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1. Drought prevailed across northern Belize during June, July and August. This resulted in large moisture deficits which reduced water supplies and moisture for seasonal crops. During September and early October, rain returned in earnest to the area, with above normal rainfall amounts observed. The September/October rains helped to recharge water supplies, but likely came too late for crops. As a result, significant crop yield reductions are possible in the area. Scattered showers are possible across northern Belize during the period.
2. Dry conditions during the Primera season resulted in reduced sub-surface soil moisture levels across much of central Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua and likely resulted in crop yield reductions during the Primera season. Rainfall has been light during September and early October across western Olancho and El Paraiso in Honduras and the surrounding region which has also reduced moisture for Postrera crops. Scattered showers are expected across the region, however the more substantial rains are expected to remain south and east of the region. Postrera crops typically mature during late October and early November with harvesting in November and December.
3. A weak tropical disturbance north of Panama will generate heavy rain across Costa Rica's Atlantic coast, as well as adjacent portions of Panama and Nicaragua early in the period. Rainfall totals of 100 to 150 mm are possible. As a result, local flooding is possible. Heavy rains should taper off by the middle of the period.

AUTHOR: Chester V. Schmitt