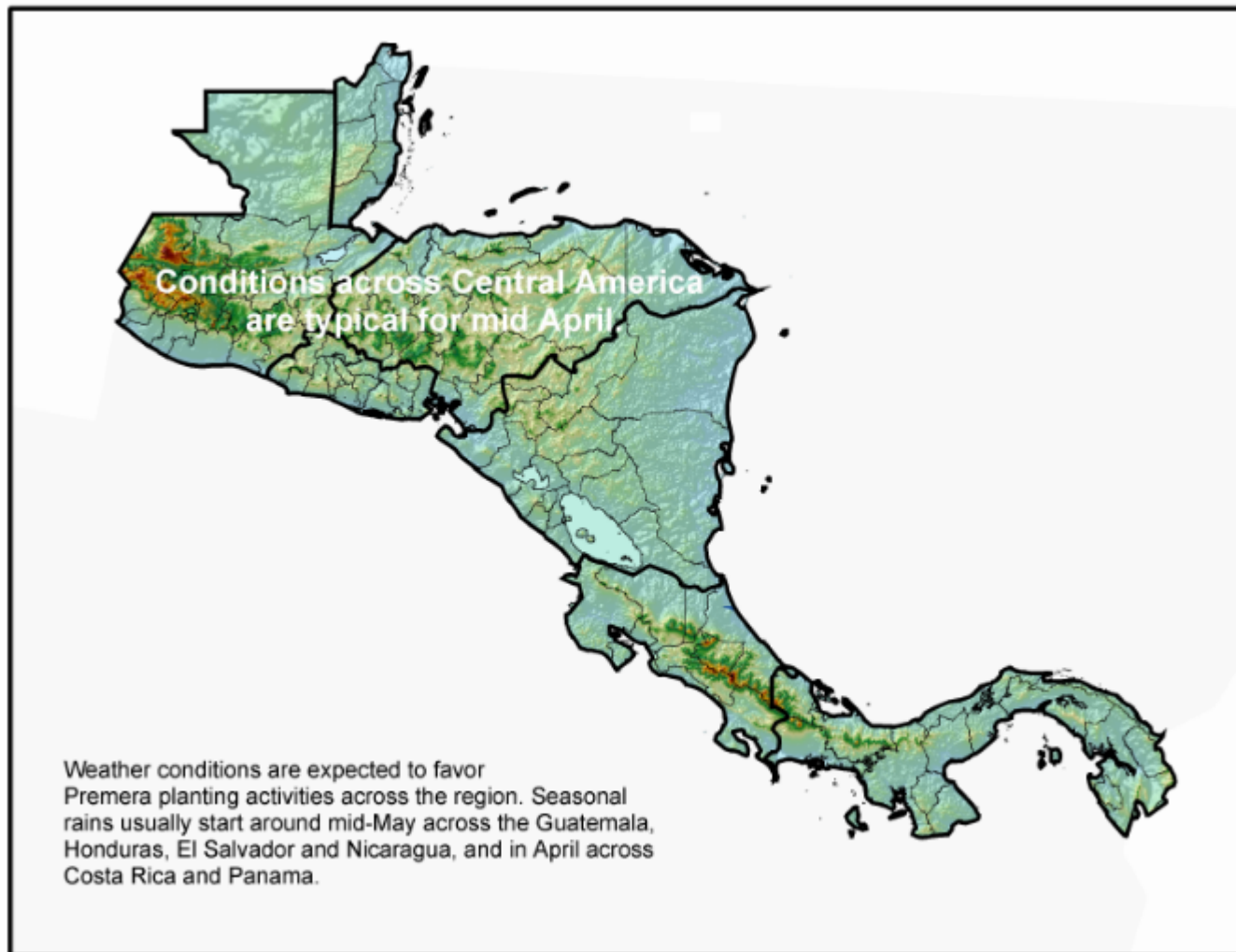


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

April 13 - 19, 2006



Conditions across Central America are typical for early April. Occasional scattered showers combined with mainly dry conditions have resulted in conditions favorable for land preparation and Primera planting activities in the region. Seasonal rains usually begin in earnest across the region during the middle part of May. In Costa Rica and Panama, the rains begin earlier. During the period, seasonable conditions are expected to continue to favor early season agricultural activities in the region. However, locally heavy rains during the first few days of the period are possible across southern Costa Rica's Pacific coastal areas. This may trigger localized flash flooding. Looking ahead to the Primera season, the La Nina conditions in the equatorial Pacific have resulted in an increased chance for normal to above normal amounts of rainfall across the region May through July. The best chances for above normal precipitation appear to be on the Pacific side of Central America.

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