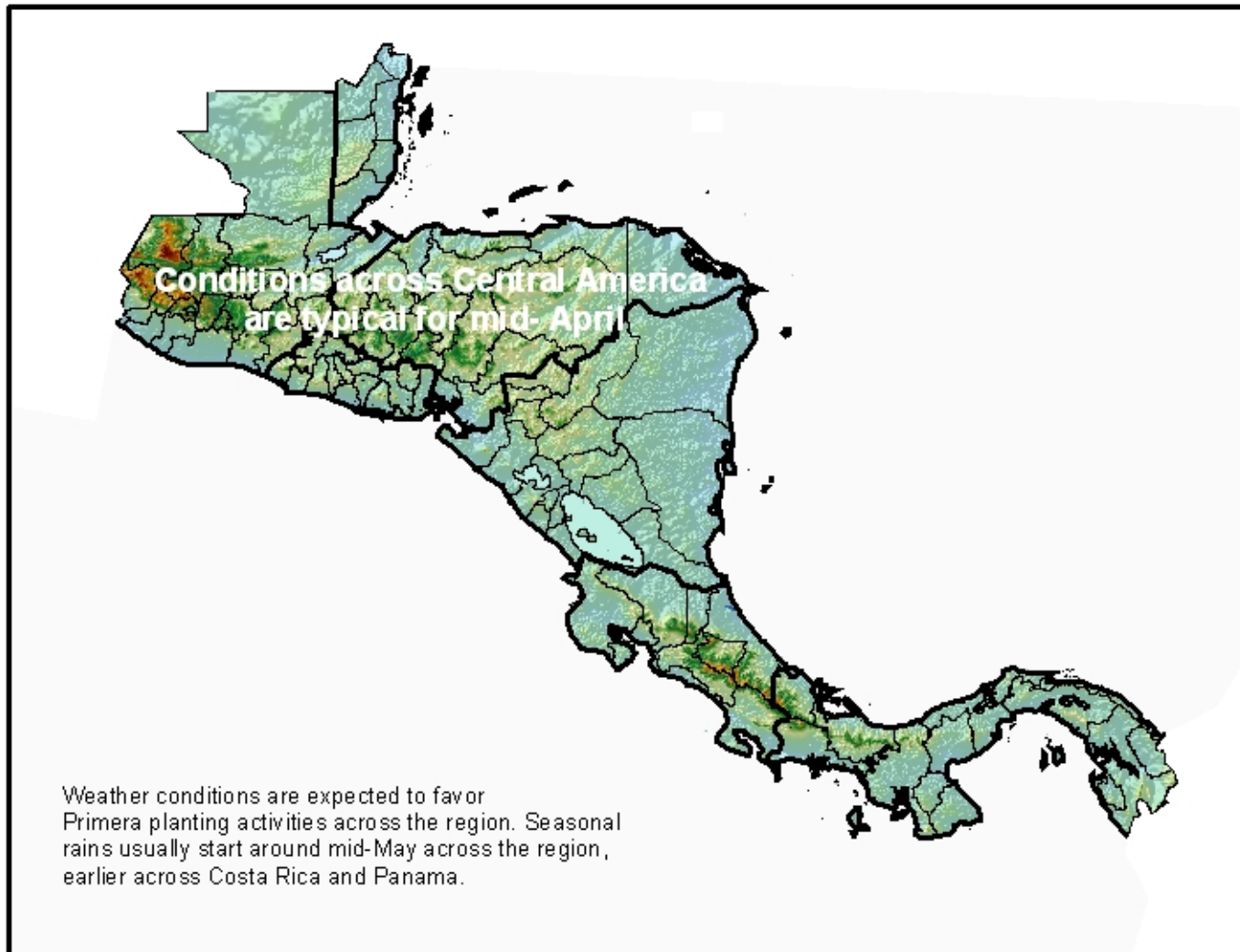


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

April 20 – 26, 2006



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

*Conditions across Central America continue to be along the lines of normal for mid-April with rains falling in the Costa Rica/Panama region and more dry conditions as we head further to the north. Occasional scattered showers combined with mainly dry conditions have resulted in favorable conditions for land preparation for any Primera planting activities that will begin or has begun across the region. The Primera season lasts from May through August and is known for its ample amount of rainfall the region receives. This rain is beneficial to crop production throughout the region. Seasonal rains usually start mid way through May for most of Central America excluding Panama and Costa Rica which have already seen plentiful rainfall this past month. During the upcoming period, seasonable conditions are expected to continue to favor early season agricultural activities in the region. Panama and Costa Rica will continue to see seasonal rains as well.

*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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