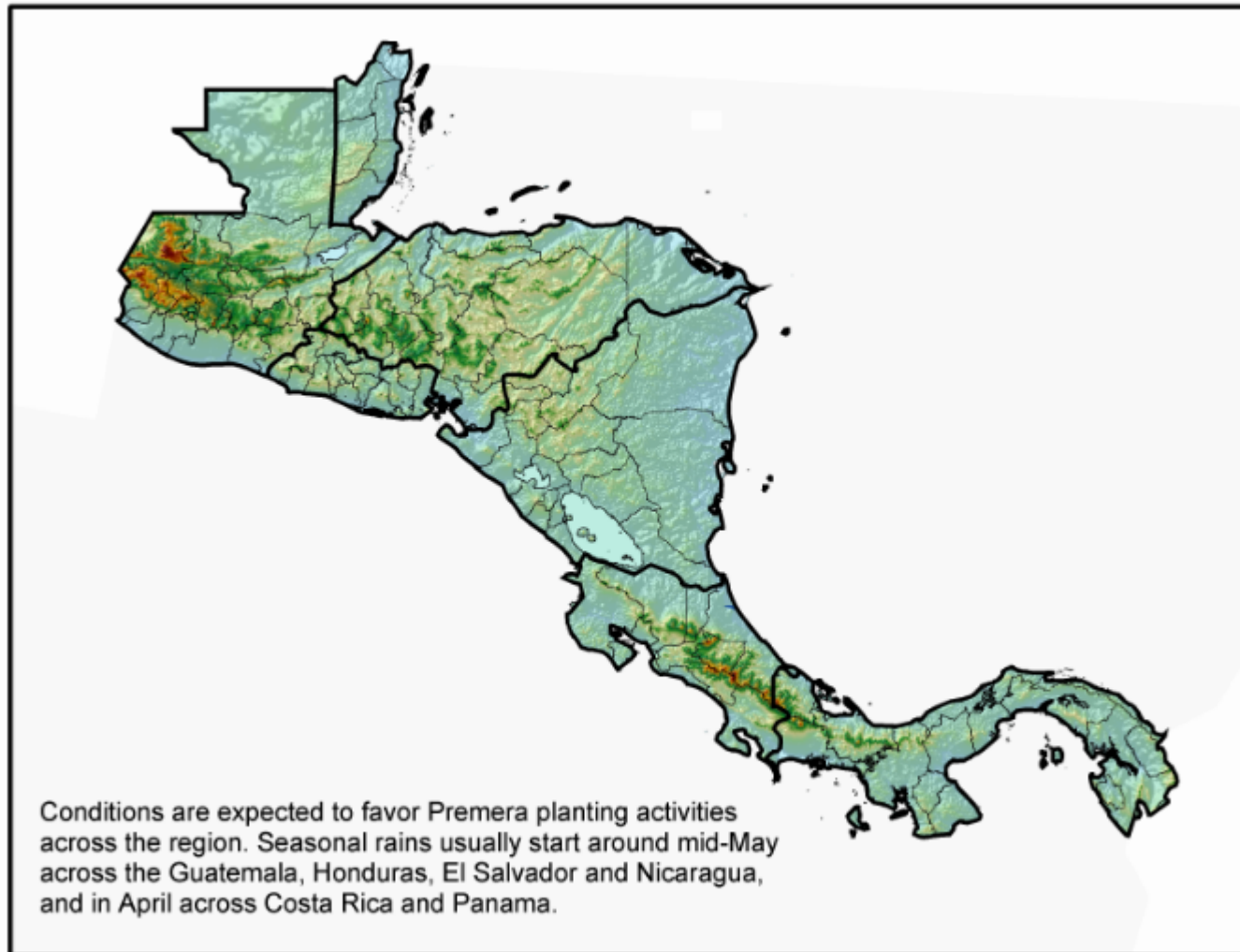


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

April 27 – May 3, 2006



Conditions across Central America are typical for late April. Occasional 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, periodic showers are expected to continue to favor early season agricultural activities in the region. However, locally heavy rains are possible across the higher terrain of southern Guatemala, El Salvador and western Honduras. Locally heavy rains are also possible over Panama and southern Costa Rica. This may trigger some localized flash flooding.

Over the equatorial Pacific, the cooler than normal ocean waters that were in place from December through March have recently warmed up. This has resulted in water temperatures that are close to normal and has caused the weakening of La Nina, and a return to ENSO neutral conditions. However, recent upwelling has resulted in cooler than normal ocean water temperatures from the Galapagos Islands eastward to the South American Coast.

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