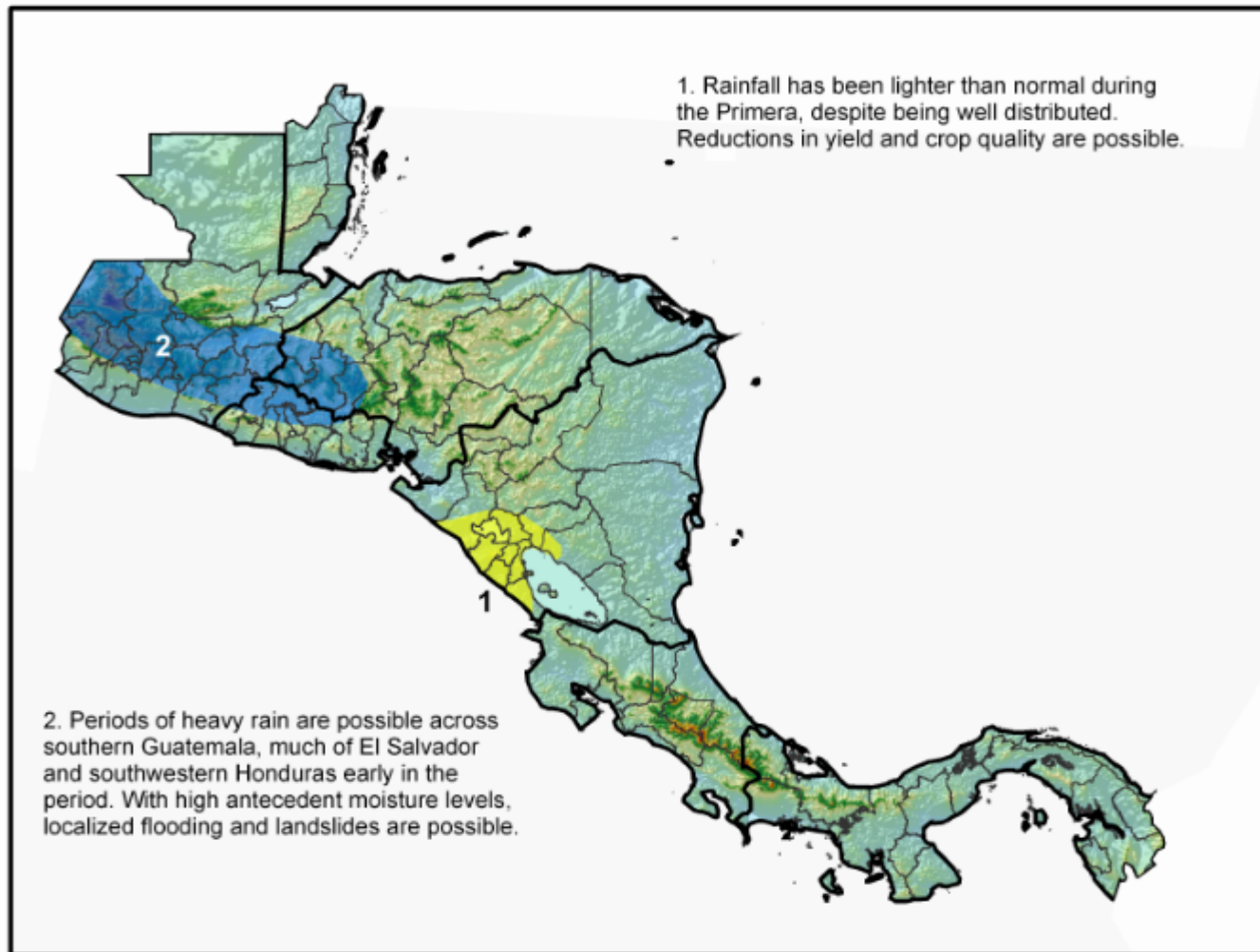


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

August 3 - 9, 2006



1) Seasonal rains have been lighter than normal across west-central portions of Nicaragua so far this season. The light rains may have resulted in low soil moisture levels and possible crop stress. This could ultimately lead to yield and crop quality reductions. To the north, rainfall has been light during recent weeks in pockets of central Honduras. During July, rainfall totals of 50 mm or less have been reported over southern and central parts of Francisco Morazan. Satellite imagery and rainfall estimates indicate that short term dryness may be developing over adjacent parts of southwestern Olancho and northern El Paraiso. Recent field reports did not indicate crop stress. However, if the rains do not improve crop stress could develop as the crops enter moisture sensitive stages of development. Some scattered showers are expected over central Honduras and western Nicaragua. However, widespread significant rains are not anticipated.

2) Recent rains have resulted in high antecedent moisture levels across southern Guatemala, El Salvador and southwestern Honduras. Periods of heavy rain are possible early in the period, especially in mountainous areas. This could lead to localized flooding and landslides. The risk for heavy rainfall should decrease later in the period.

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