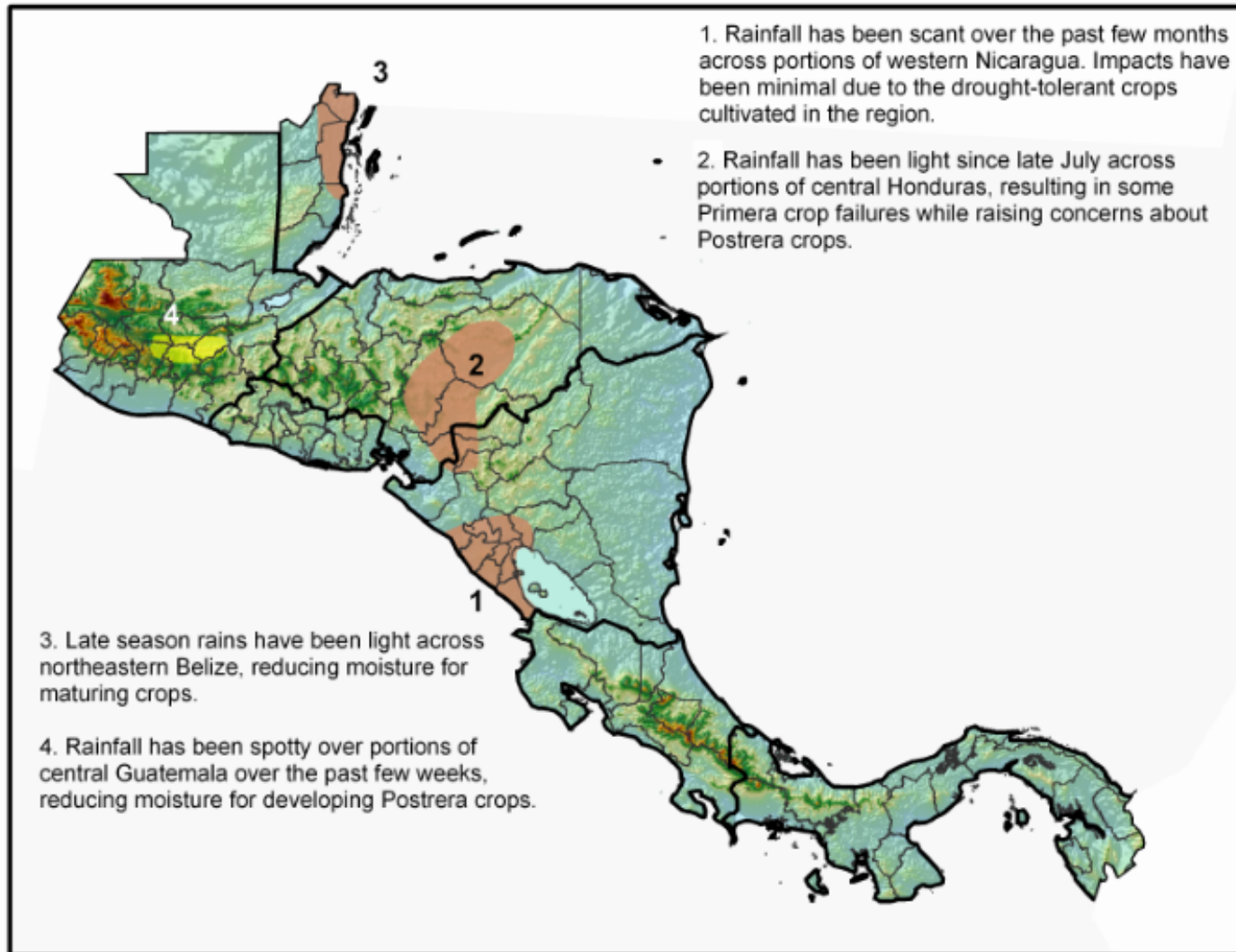


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

October 5 - 11, 2006



1) Primera and early Postrera rains have been erratic and lighter than normal across coastal portions of western Nicaragua. Since the region is not a major agricultural area and the crops that are cultivated are fairly drought tolerant, impacts have been minimal. However, the region needs to be monitored for the possible development of drought related problems. Rainfall is expected to remain light and spotty during the period.

2) Seasonal rains have been light across portions of central Honduras since July, resulting in areas of dryness. The dry spell has resulted in Primera crop stress, and some losses in areas where the crop was in moisture sensitive stages of development. With the Postrera season underway, the lack of rainfall is unfavorable for crop development. Significant rainfall will be needed soon to ensure crop establishment. Unfortunately, rainfall is expected to remain scattered during the period as atmospheric conditions remain unfavorable for the development of widespread seasonal rains.

3) Rainfall during August and September was lighter than normal across northeastern portions of Belize. This has reduces moisture for crop filling and maturity. As a result, yield and crop quality losses are possible in this area. Occasional showers are possible across the region during the period. However, these rains will likely come to late to have a significant impact on crop quality.

4) Rainfall has been light and spotty over the past few weeks across portions of central Guatemala. There are indications that this might have led to the development of some short term dryness and possible stress to developing second season crops. However, seasonal rains are expected during the period, which should result in some improvement.

AUTHOR: Chester V. Schmitt