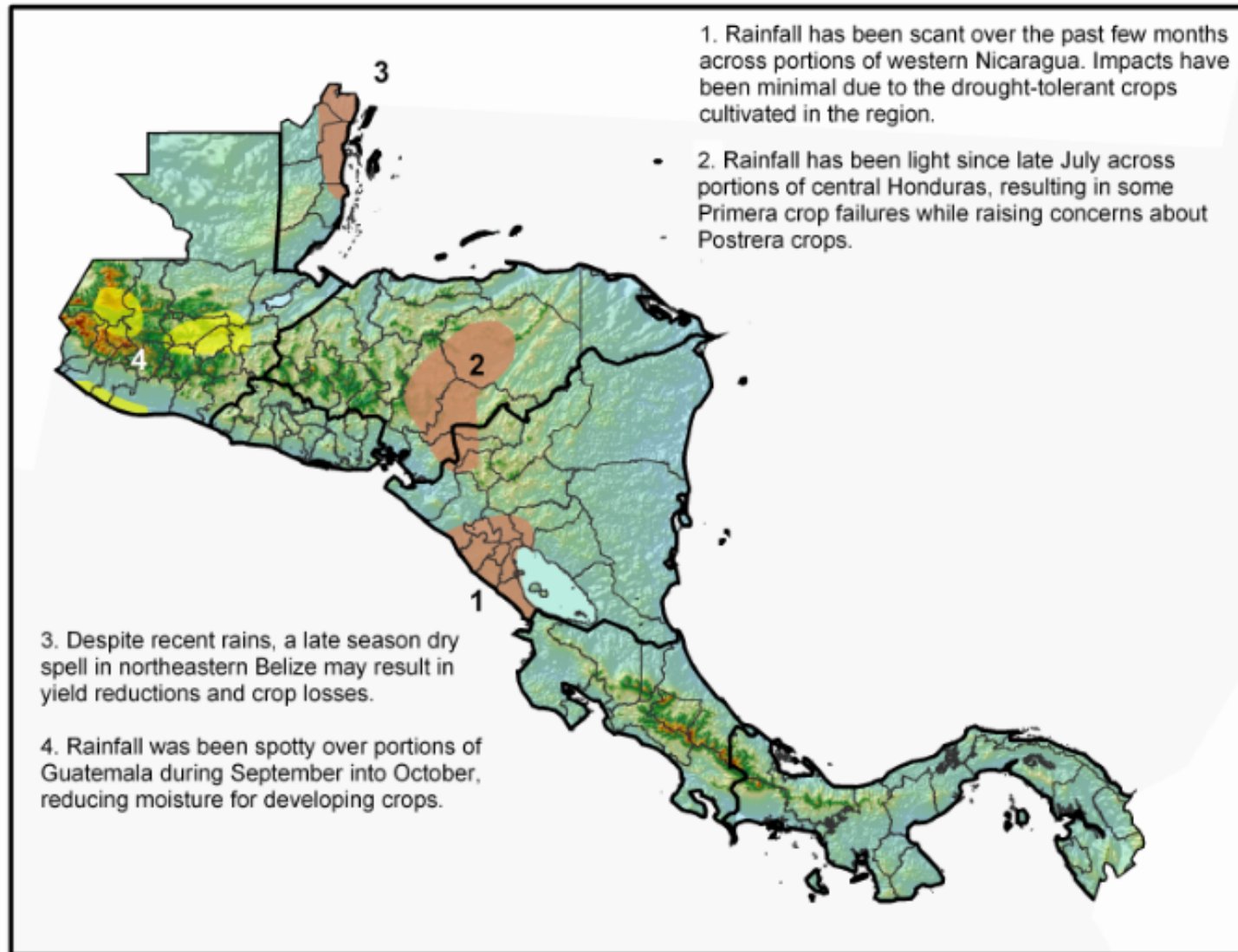


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

October 12 - 18, 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. Chances for rainfall are expected to increase during the period as conditions become more favorable for rainfall.

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. Some increase in rainfall is expected during the period.

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) Observations from Guatemala indicate that September rains have been lighter than normal across portions of central Guatemala and the southern coast, with totals that are one half to three quarters of normal. This trend has continued into the first week of October. The dry spell has raised concerns over Postrera beans, sesame and maize. Maize from the first season has not been harvested yet in the altiplano in the northwest, and could be at risk since at higher altitudes the crops take longer to mature. Thus, they only have one harvest a year.

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