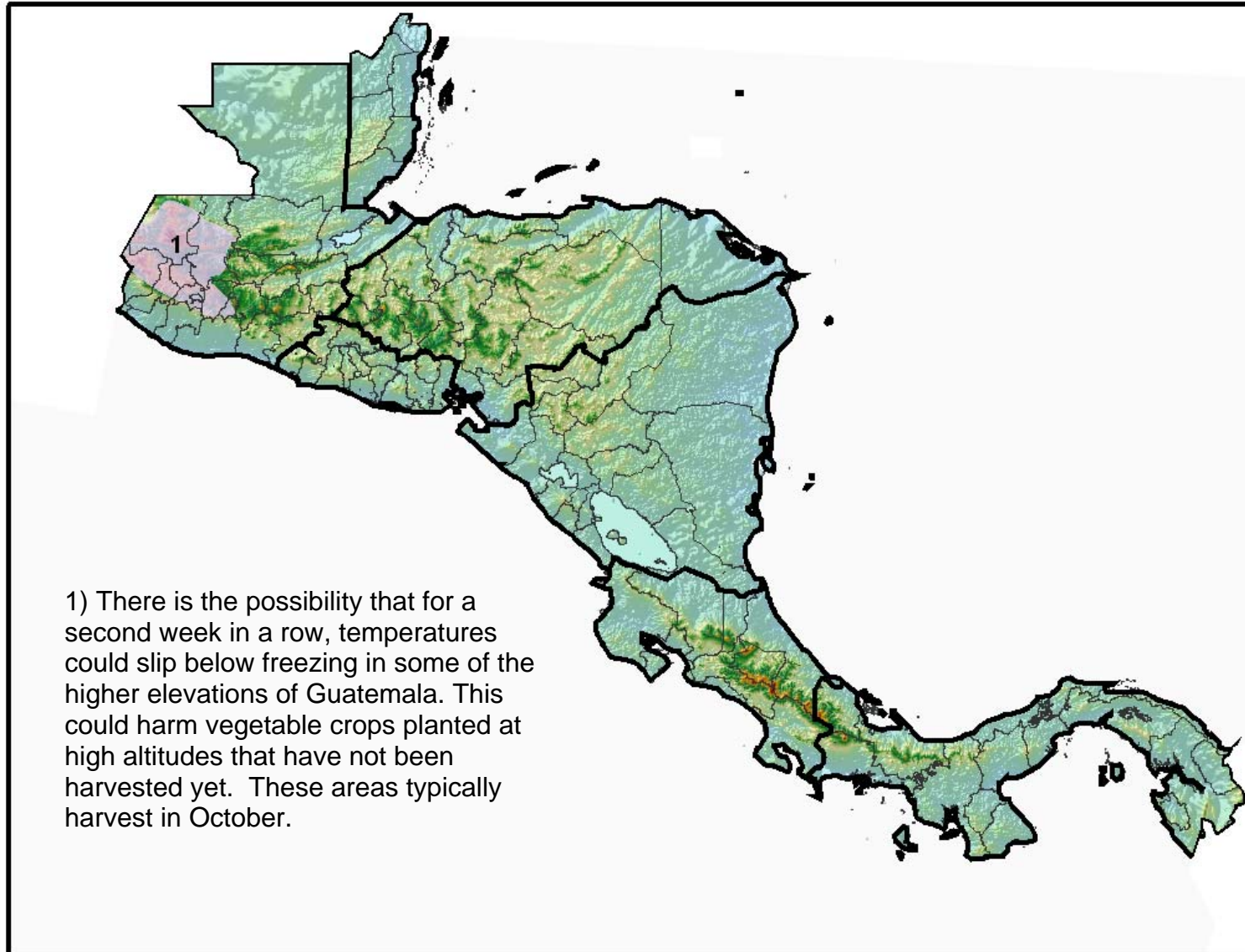


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

November 22 – November 28, 2007



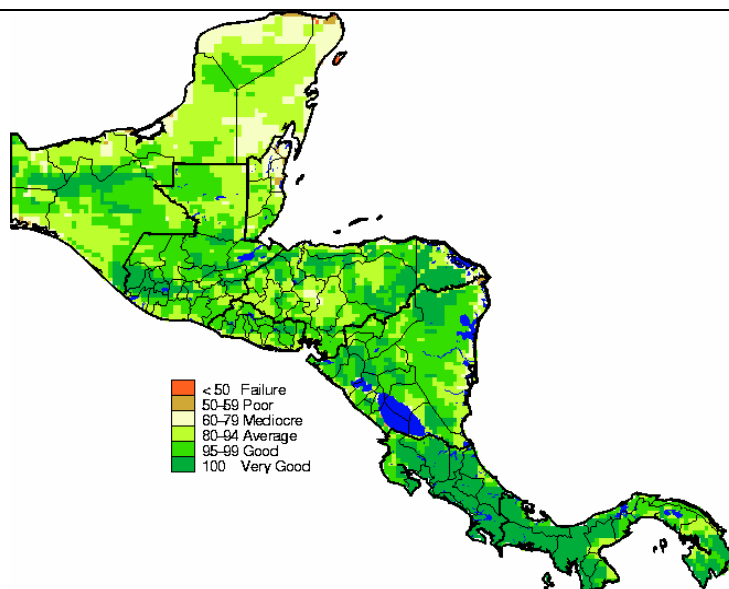
Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Harvesting activities continue across many areas of Central America. Dry conditions will help facilitate field work in northern Central America, while light showers are expected further south. The Postrera season has been much wetter in most areas than the Primera season was. Hurricanes Dean and Felix also made significant impacts. Both storms damaged infrastructure, caused fatalities and destroyed crops locally. Dry conditions reduced crops yields in southern Honduras during the Primera. The Postrera season was characterized by flooding in portions of Costa Rica and the Atlantic coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Other isolated flooding incidences occurred in Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama.

Most of the region has experienced a good Postrera season. There are a few isolated areas of concern; however there are only three areas of significant concern. RAAN, Nicaragua was the location where Hurricane Felix made landfall in earlier this year and heavy rainfall since then has prevented conditions from improving. Northern and western areas of Nicaragua have also experienced crop losses. Partially as a result of Felix, but also due to excessive rainfall at other times and in other locations, Nicaragua lost a portion of its annual crops this year and the country now has an expected maize harvest of 5.31% below normal, a beans harvest 20.19% below normal, sorghum harvest 4.39% below normal, sesame harvest 14.5% below normal. The other area of concern is in Honduras, where the met service said that they expect some crop losses in the south part of the country. This was during Postrera during the floods. The main crop impacted is maize specifically in Marcovia, Choluteca, Namasique and El Triunfo. The worst impacted locations are along rivers.

Cold temperatures may impact crops in Guatemala's western highland areas. The higher elevations are at the most risk. Frosts and freezes would damage crops grown at higher elevations, primarily vegetables. Most of the harvest, however in this region is over and thus impacts will be extremely localized Cold temperatures may also reach El Salvador, but that is not considered likely at this time.

Model Primera Crop Conditions As of November 17, 2007



Source: USGS

The above image indicates a positive outlook for many areas. Note that this product does not factor in damage caused by floods or winds.

The evaluation of climatological threats of MFEWS include the participation of the central and local offices of MFEWS, NOAA-CPC, USGS, NASA, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov