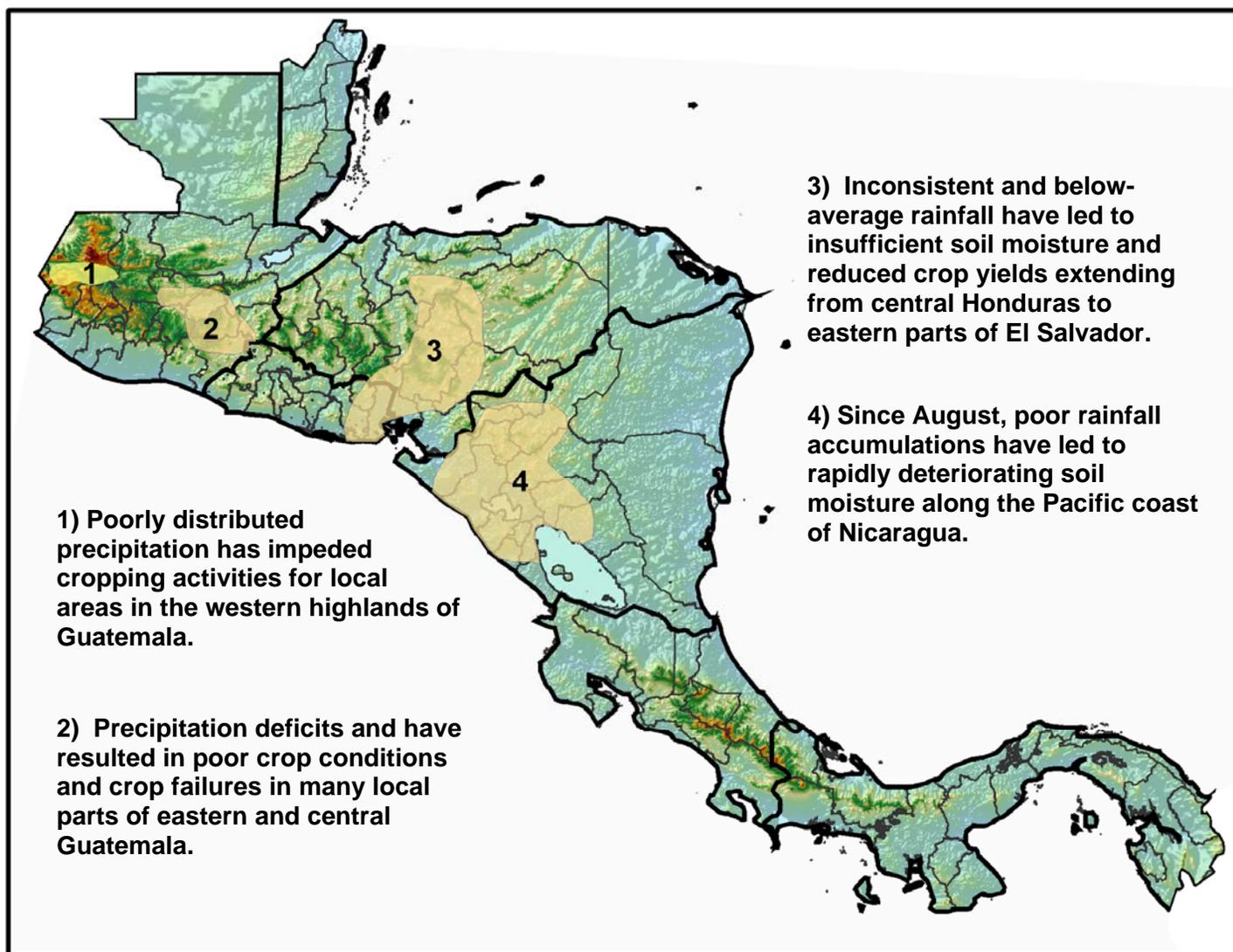


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 17 – September 23, 2009



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

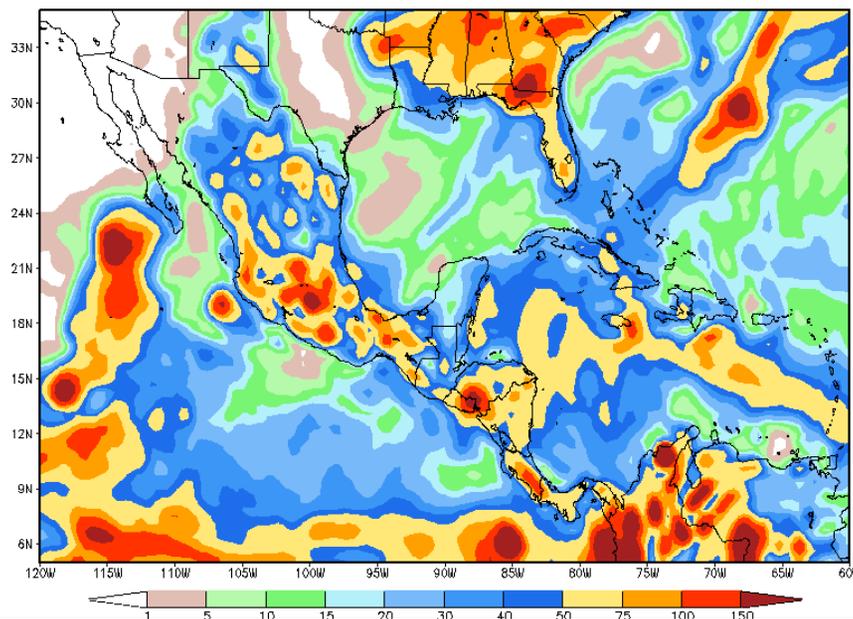
During the last observation period, low to moderate rainfall accumulations were observed throughout Central America. In Guatemala, the highest precipitation totals (50 mm) were received across the north in areas surrounding the Izabal and Alta Verapaz department, with marginal totals seen throughout many areas in the central and eastern departments. In Honduras and El Salvador, moderate to high amounts were observed near the Gulf of Fonseca region, with suppressed amounts of rainfall observed throughout many of the drier parts of Honduras. In Nicaragua, moderate amounts of rainfall (20-30mm) were received in the east, which is expected to bring some relief for areas near Lake Nicaragua and along the Pacific side of the country. In Costa Rica and Panama, seasonal amounts of rainfall were observed.

Since July, below-average and poorly distributed rainfall has led to crop degradation and failure in parts in the Zacapa, Baja Verapaz, Zacapa, Chiquimula, El Progreso, Jalapa, and Jutiapa departments of Guatemala. In the west, similar conditions have negatively impacted the many local areas in departments of Huehuetenango, San Marcos, Quetzaltenango, Totonicapan. In eastern El Salvador, poorly distributed and irregular rainfall in July has led to a 50 percent reduction in crop yields for many municipalities in the departments of Santa Ana, La Libertad, La Paz, San Vicente, Usulután, and San Miguel. Despite a poor end to the Primera season rains, Postrera planting is currently underway for the departments of Choluteca, Valle, El Paraiso, Francisco Morazán, and Yoro in Honduras. In Nicaragua, poor rainfall has resulted in strengthening deficits and deteriorating soil water conditions, especially for areas neighboring Lake Nicaragua along the Pacific coast.

Precipitation forecasts show some improvement to many areas impacted by short-term and long term dryness in Central America. Widespread precipitation amounts in excess 40mm are expected to help lessen moisture and rainfall deficits for many local areas in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Guatemala, another week of suppressed rainfall is expected to worsen dryness in the central and eastern regions. No significant tropical or easterly wave activity is expected.

7-Day GFS Precipitation Outlook Valid: Sep 15th – Sep 22nd, 2009

NOAA GFS 37.5 km Week 1 Total Precipitation (mm)
Issued at Sep 15 2009 00Z for the period ending at Sep 22 2009 00Z



Source: CPC / NOAA

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