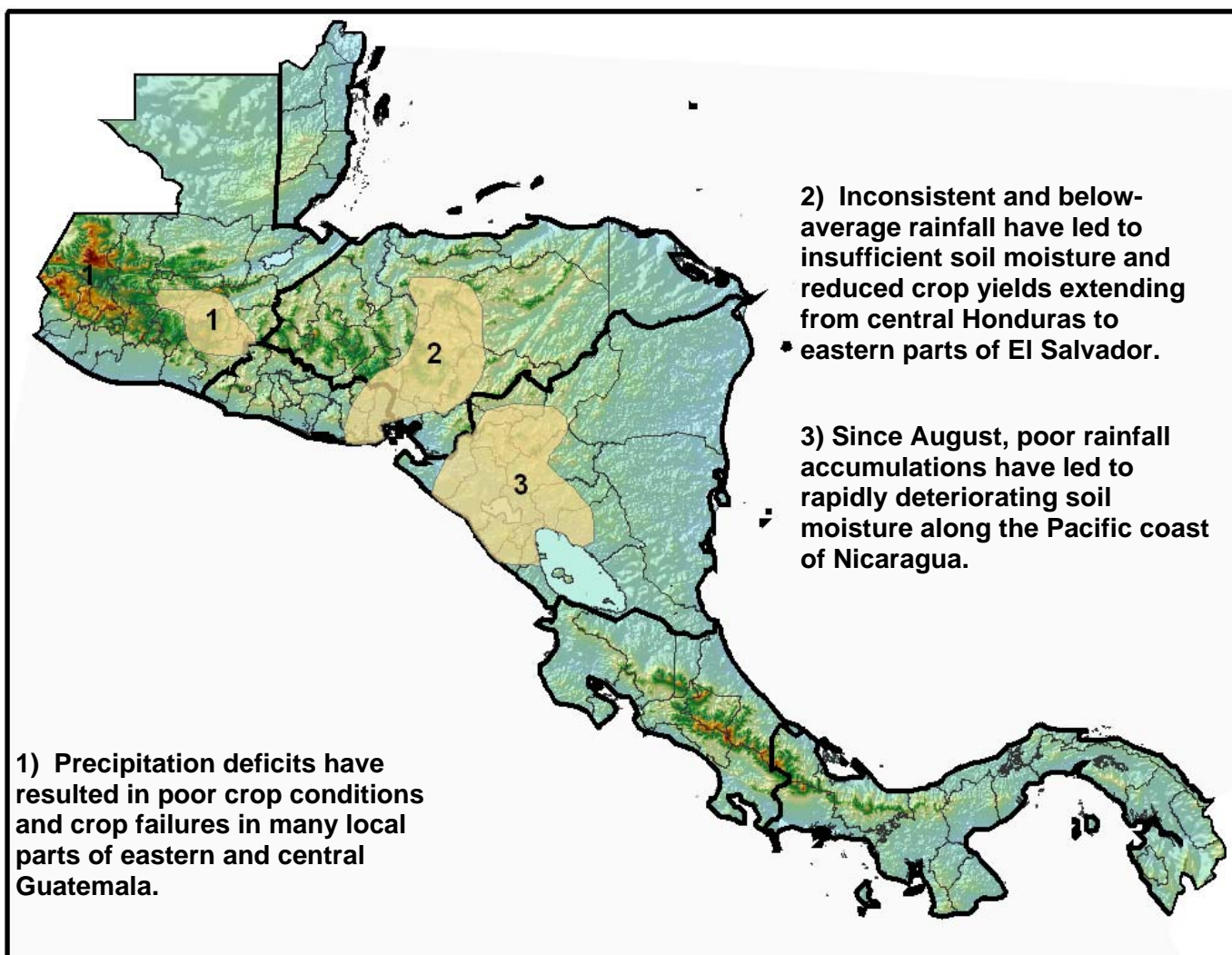


## The MFEWS

# Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

September 24 – 30, 2009



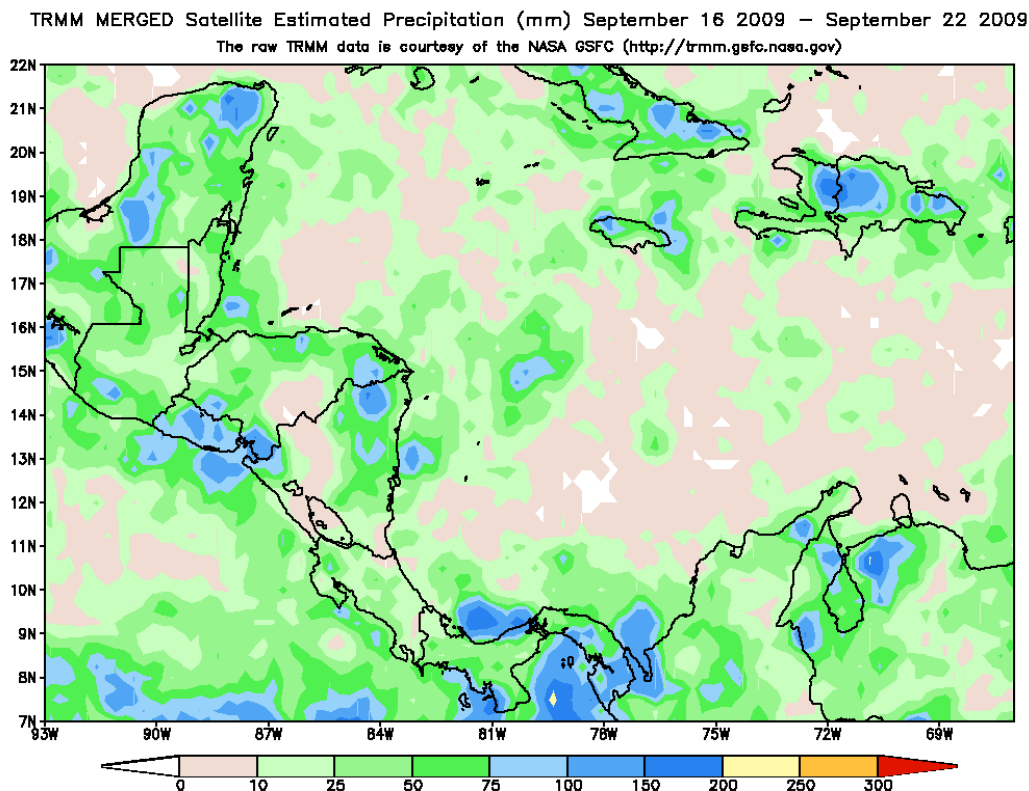
## Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

During the last observation period, moderate rainfall accumulations were observed throughout much of Central America. Parts of Belize southward to Panama all surpassed 25 mm, some areas surpassed 50 mm. The Gulf of Fonseca region, as well as the Atlantico Norte department of Nicaragua, recorded rainfall totals ranging from 75 – 100+ mm. However, despite the favorable increase in rainfall, areas experiencing persistent dryness remain below-average. Central Honduras into Nicaragua only recorded 0 – 10 mm in rainfall during the past observation period, furthering dry conditions on the ground.

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 a continuation of low rainfall totals in central Honduras to north of Lake Nicaragua. Elsewhere, a moderate increase in precipitation can be expected.

### 7-Day TRMM Precipitation Totals Valid: Sep 16<sup>th</sup> – Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009



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](mailto:Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov)