

The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America April 22 – April 28, 2010

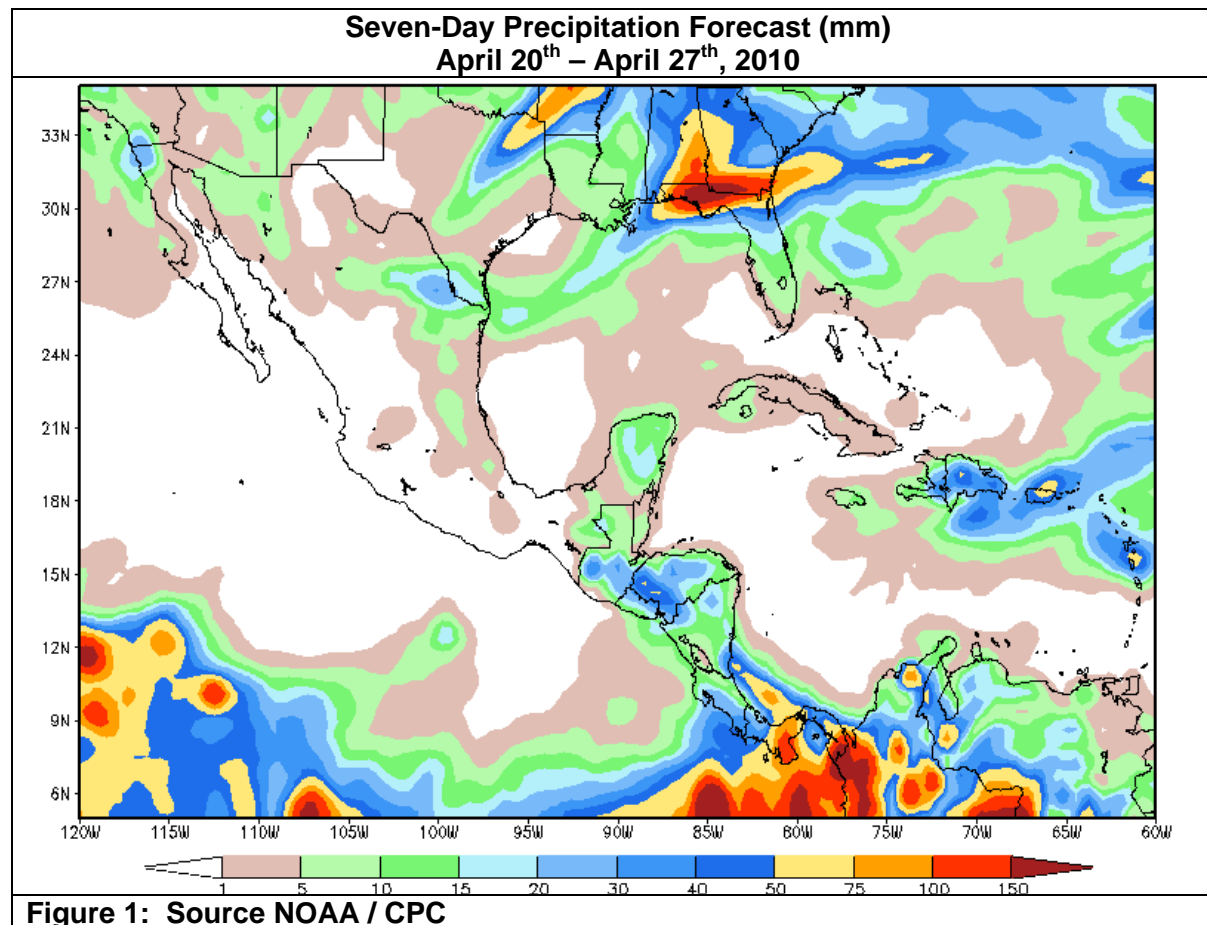
- Favorable amounts of rainfall observed across Central America during the last seven days are expected to alleviate pre-seasonal dryness and benefit upcoming cropping activities.



Anomalously wet conditions observed for many areas neighboring the Gulf of Honduras.

Many portions of Central America saw an increase in precipitation during the last seven days. Enhanced rainfall activity was observed in the Gulf of Honduras and Caribbean, with high land rainfall amounts between 50-75mm for parts of central Honduras and Guatemala. In Nicaragua, less rainfall was observed, with seven-day totals ranging between 25-50mm in many local areas towards the north. In El Salvador, rainfall totals remained fair to moderate, as sowing of Primera season crops are expected in the next several weeks. In Costa Rica, an increase in Pacific moisture also brought heavy amounts of precipitation for many coastal areas, and in the Gulf of Nicoya region. Lesser rainfall amounts were received in western Panama, with little to no rainfall observed for many areas east of the Panama Canal.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a more seasonal distribution of rainfall for the upcoming observation period. The heaviest rainfall is expected for many areas in the southern Caribbean, as precipitation amounts are expected to exceed 75mm in many local parts of Costa Rica and Panama. Further north, another week of moderate precipitation is likely for parts of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, with lesser weekly totals (15-30 mm) expected in Nicaragua (**Figure 1**).



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