



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 29 – April 4, 2012

- Favorably above average amounts of precipitation expected to continue for many portions of Guatemala and Honduras in early April.



Above average rains received in northern Guatemala during late March.

During late March, moderate to locally heavy amounts of precipitation (30-75mm) were observed throughout portions of northern and western Guatemala, and Belize. In the Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, and Solola departments of Guatemala, a heavy hailstorm event resulted in damages to crops during the last week. Intense rainfall also triggered localized flooding in Guatemala City. Across southern Central America, rains were generally lighter across many portions of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama during the last seven days. Since the beginning of March, precipitation has mostly remained near-neutral across much of the domain, with positive rainfall anomalies observed in the Gulf of Honduras region and in the southern Caribbean. Although these rainfall surpluses had elevated the potential for flooding earlier in March, saturated ground conditions are expected to be favorable for planting of Primera crops during the next several weeks.

During the next seven days, forecasts show an increase in precipitation for many inland departments of Central America, as well as areas along the Pacific. The potential for locally heavy weekly precipitation accumulations is high for many local areas in of southwestern Honduras, as well as in central Guatemala. These rains are expected to increase moisture for areas that have seen little to no rainfall over the last several months. Elsewhere, low to moderate amounts of rainfall may be expected for Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for the next week.

