



Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook April 28 – May 4, 2016

- Increased rainfall signals onset of Primera rains for many areas of Guatemala.



Higher weekly rainfall accumulations help alleviate developing dryness in parts of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras.

During the last week, a much improved seasonable distribution of rainfall was observed throughout Central America. In Guatemala, many departments received increased rains, with the heaviest precipitation accumulations (50-75mm) concentrated over the higher elevations and southern departments of the country. Towards the east, moderate to heavy rainfall was also received across parts of El Salvador and Honduras, signaling the first substantial increase in rains/moisture for the season. Following a delayed start of the Primera rains during the month of April, moisture deficits had begun to strengthen throughout the region. While the increase in Primera rainfall during the last was beneficial for many anomalously dry areas, there still remain many areas in Guatemala, El Salvador, and western Honduras that have received less than half of their normal rainfall accumulation during this time of the year. Consequently, satellite estimated vegetation health conditions have shown some decline, with the greatest deterioration depicted in southern Guatemala, El Salvador and southern Honduras. The suppressed rainfall may lead to delayed planting and other adverse ground impacts.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models suggest an increase in rainfall for many areas experiencing dryness. Weekly precipitation accumulations in excess of 50mm are forecast across portions of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua which is expected to help alleviate moisture deficits.

