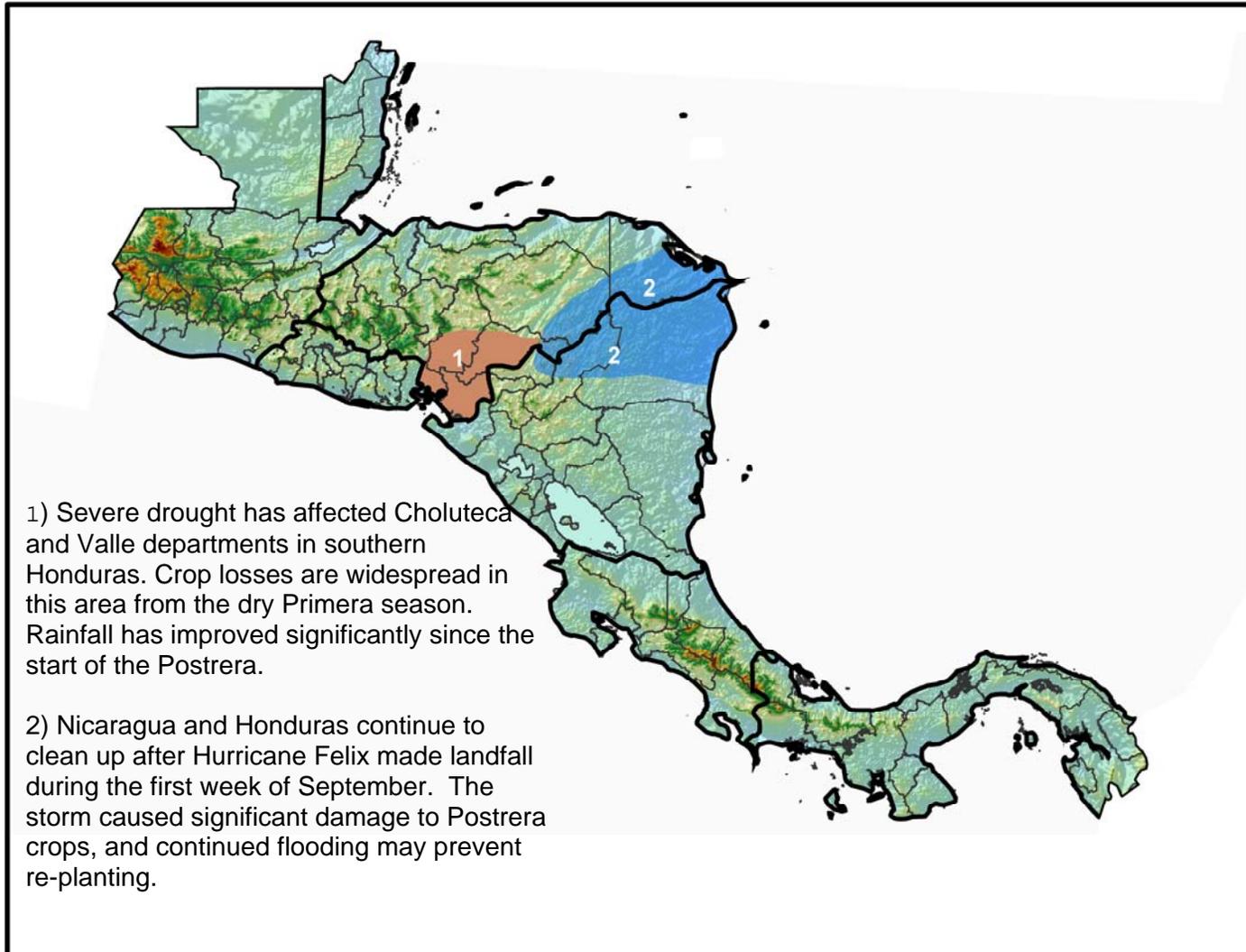


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

For

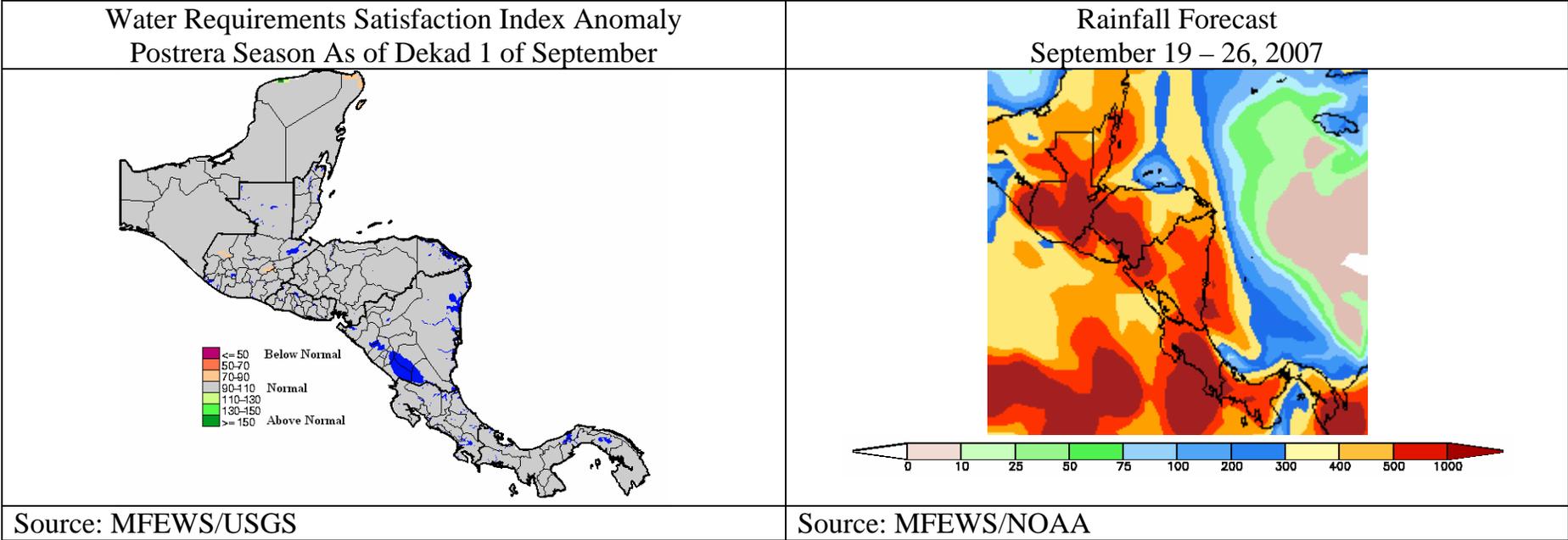
September 20 – 26, 2007



Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

Hurricane Felix continues to have major implications especially in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN). It was in this location that the heaviest rains and strong winds of the storm destroyed crops, causing flooding and possibly preventing the re-sowing of crops. Soils are saturated throughout the region and continued rainfall brings with it a significant risk of flooding and landslides in northeastern Nicaragua and eastern Honduras. Dry conditions also hampered the growing season during the Primera, especially in southern portions of Honduras near the Gulf of Fonseca. Rainfall has picked up significantly in this area thus far in the Postrera, the more important growing season for the region. These increased rains have the potential to ease the impacts from the poor Primera crop. Honduras also experienced the adverse affects of Hurricane Felix, but these negative impacts have been much less important than the beneficial rainfall that has reached the area. Guatemala had a near normal Primera season, and the Postrera season is off to a good start. Rainfall from Hurricane Felix did cause some localized flooding in the mountainous southern parts of the country.

La Nina continues to develop in the Pacific. The atmosphere has already begun to respond to the cold waters in the Pacific Ocean. This makes it very likely that Central America will be unusually wet during the coming months. INSIVUMEH reports that this will likely bring a wet remainder of September with rainfall decreasing thereafter. IMN has reported very wet conditions on the Pacific side of the country with drier conditions close to the Caribbean side.



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, and SNET of El Salvador. Any questions or comments on this product can be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov