



## The USAID MFEWS Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Central America April 29 – May 5, 2010



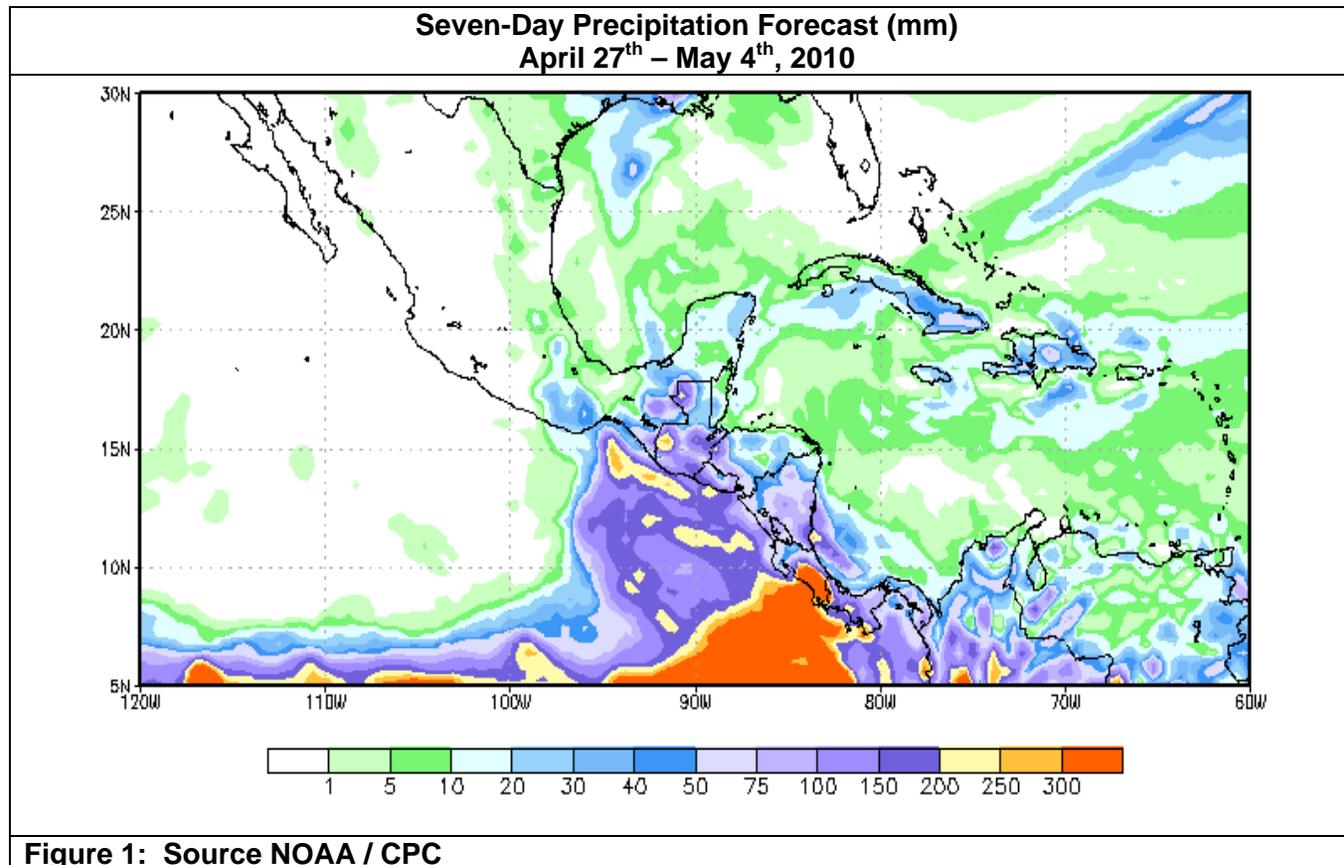
- A continued increase in rainfall over Central America is expected to provide both favorable conditions for Primera planting, and mitigate areas impacted by long-term winter dryness.
- Heavy amounts of rainfall are expected for the upcoming observation period, which may produce flooding for many local areas along the Pacific basin.



## Heavy onset of precipitation expected for the next seven days.

During the last week, a continuation of enhanced rainfall activity was observed across portions of Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama. Weekly rainfall amounts ranging between 50-75mm were received north of the Gulf of Fonseca region, and throughout areas north of Lake Nicaragua. In Guatemala, the highest rainfall amounts were confined towards the east. 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 and Panama, an increase in Pacific moisture also brought generous amounts of precipitation for many coastal areas, with localized amounts in excess of 100mm near the Panama Canal region.

Precipitation forecasts suggest a significant enhancement of precipitation activity during the next seven days. In the next seven days, heavy rainfall amounts in excess of 125mm are expected for the provinces of Alajuela, San Jose, Cartago, Limon and Puntarenas in Costa Rica, and in the provinces of Chiriquí, Bocas del Toro, Veraguas, Los Santos, Cole, and Colon provinces in Panama. These excessive rains are likely move northward to affect many departments in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Some local areas may exceed rainfall accumulations over 200 mm by the end of the observation period (**Figure 1**). The onset of rapidly heavy rainfall in association with high winds may result in localized flooding, damages to infrastructure, as well as possible landslides in higher elevations.



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