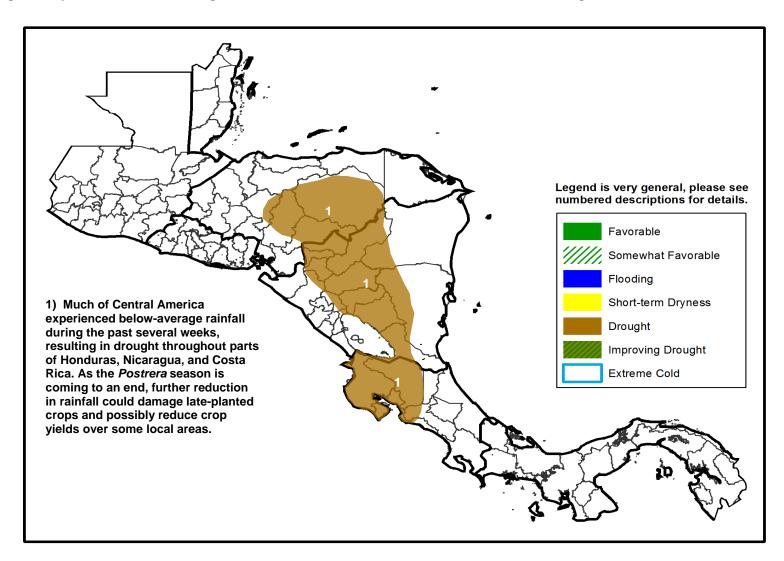






Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET December 1 – December 7, 2011

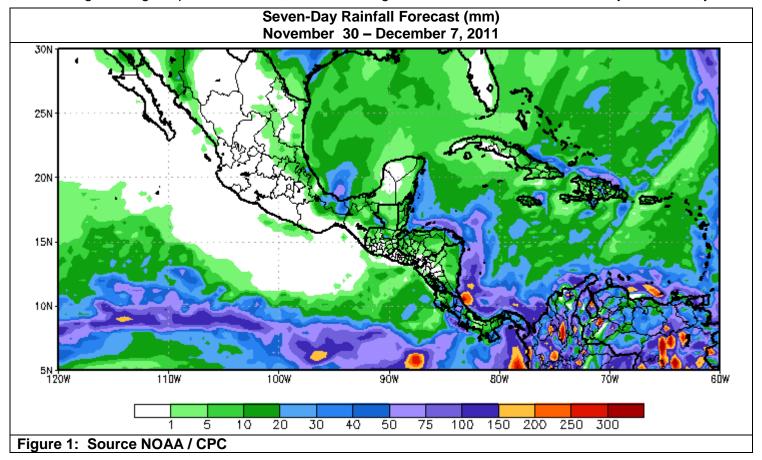
• Drought is expected to continue as light rainfall is forecast over much of Central America during the next week.



Drought is expected to continue over regions of Central America.

During the past seven days, much of Central America has received light to no (< 10 mm) rainfall, with the heaviest rainfall (> 100 mm) observed over the Caribbean region of Costa Rica. Compared to climatology, the weekly rainfall totals were marginal. However, rainfall has been deficient since the beginning of November, with several areas receiving only less than 50 percent of their averages. This has further depleted ground moisture and has resulted in persisting drought across portions of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Also, as the season is ending, rainfall is expected to decrease, thus further reducing the chance for moisture recovery during this time of the year. This could negatively impact crops in their late maturation stages and potentially reduce crop yields over some local areas.

During the next week, model forecasts suggest light to no rainfall to continue over Central America. Rainfall suppression is expected in southern Guatemala and Gulf of Fonseca region during the next week. However, the passage of a cold front could bring heavy (> 50 mm) rainfall in the Gulf of Honduras region and northern Honduras. Strong northeasterly winds are also forecast to enhance shower and thunderstorm activities along the Atlantic coasts of Nicaragua and southern Caribbean. While the heavy rainfall is expected to benefit cropping conditions over eastern Costa Rica, which had experienced drought during the previous months, the forecast light rainfall amounts could worsen dryness in many local areas.



MFEWS is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The MFEWS weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by MFEWS field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries such as, INETER of Nicaragua, Meteorological Service of Honduras, IMN of Costa Rica, INSIVUMEH of Guatemala, ETESA of Panama, NMS of Belize and SNET of El Salvador. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila. Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID MFEWS activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for MFEWS, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.