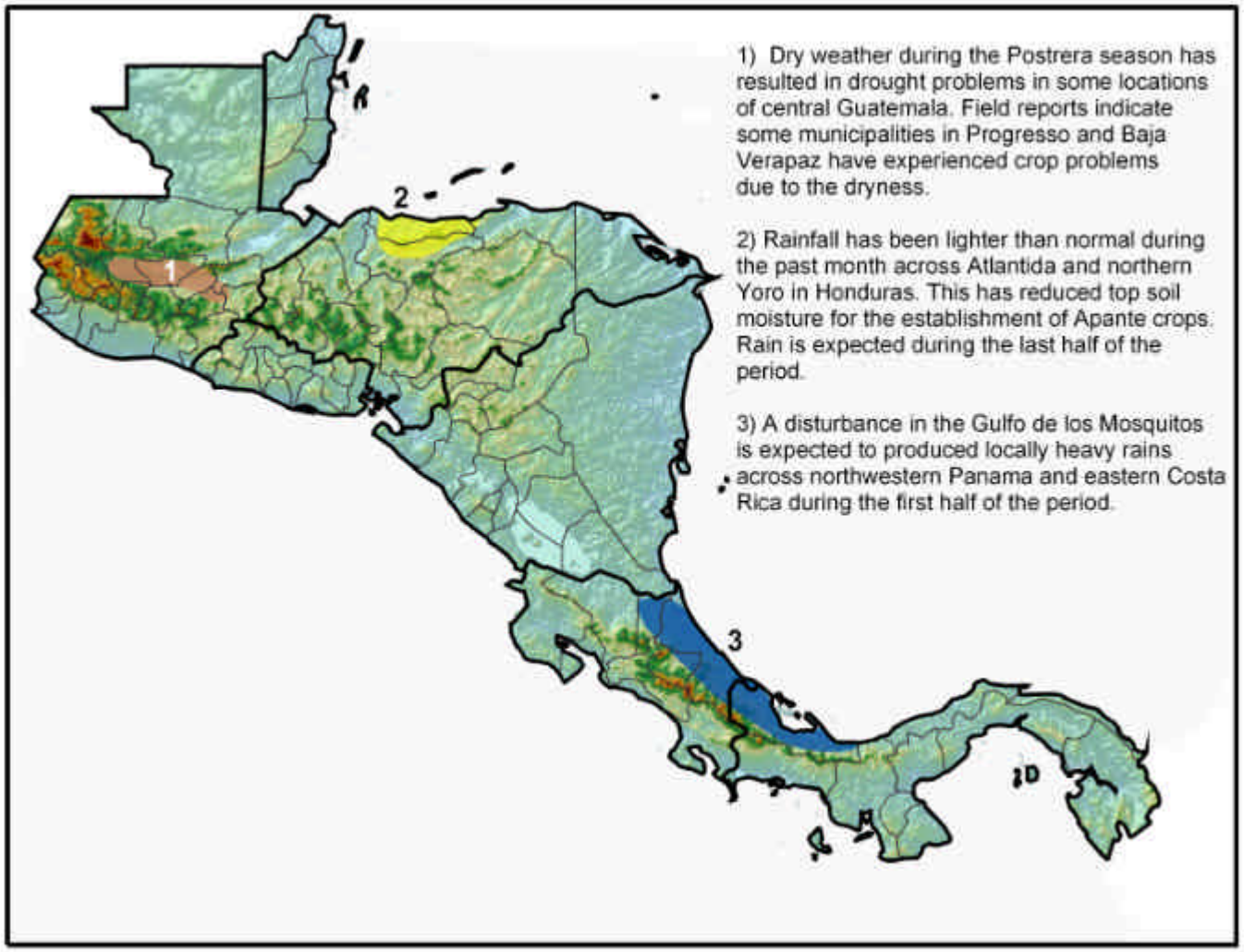
MFEWS Mesoamerican Food Security Early Warning System
Sistema Mesoamericano de Alerta Temprana para Seguridad Alimentaria

The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards Assessment

For

December 9 - 15, 2004



1) Dry weather during the Postrera season has resulted in drought problems in some locations of central Guatemala. Field reports indicate some municipalities in Progresso and Baja Verapaz have experienced crop problems due to the dryness.

2) Rainfall has been lighter than normal during the past month across Atlantida and northern Yoro in Honduras. This has reduced top soil moisture for the establishment of Apante crops. Rain is expected during the last half of the period.

3) A disturbance in the Gulfo de los Mosquitos is expected to produced locally heavy rains across northwestern Panama and eastern Costa Rica during the first half of the period.

Hazards Assessment Text Explanation:

1) Rainfall has been lighter than normal and erratic in some areas of central Guatemala during the Postrera. Reports from the field indicate that some municipalities in Progresso and Baja Verapaz have reported crop problems due to the poor rains. Although there are no reported crop problems, dryness may extend westward into portions of southern Quiche. Although some scattered showers are possible across central Guatemala, mostly dry conditions during the period will favor harvesting activities in the region.

2) Rainfall has been lighter than normal over the past 3 to 4 weeks across northern Yoro and Atlantida in northern Honduras. Although the fair weather has been favorable for Postrera crop harvesting and field work, it has reduced top soil moisture for the establishment of Apante crops. A cold front is expected to produced showers and thunderstorms across northern Honduras from December 11th on. These rains will help to increase top soil moisture and benefit recently sown Apante crops.

3) An area of disturbed weather in the Gulfo de los Mosquitos will produce locally heavy rains across northwestern Panama and eastern Costa Rica during the first half of the period. Rainfall amounts of 100 – 200+ mm are expected. Therefore, the potential for flooding exists. Rainfall is expected to taper off during the last half of the period.

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