

**APPLIED CLIMATE SERVICES: MANAGING  
RISK FOR FOOD PRODUCTION, FIRE  
MITIGATION, AND ENERGY PRODUCTION  
IN GUATEMALA**

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UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**



# OVERVIEW

Case studies

Food Production

Wildfires

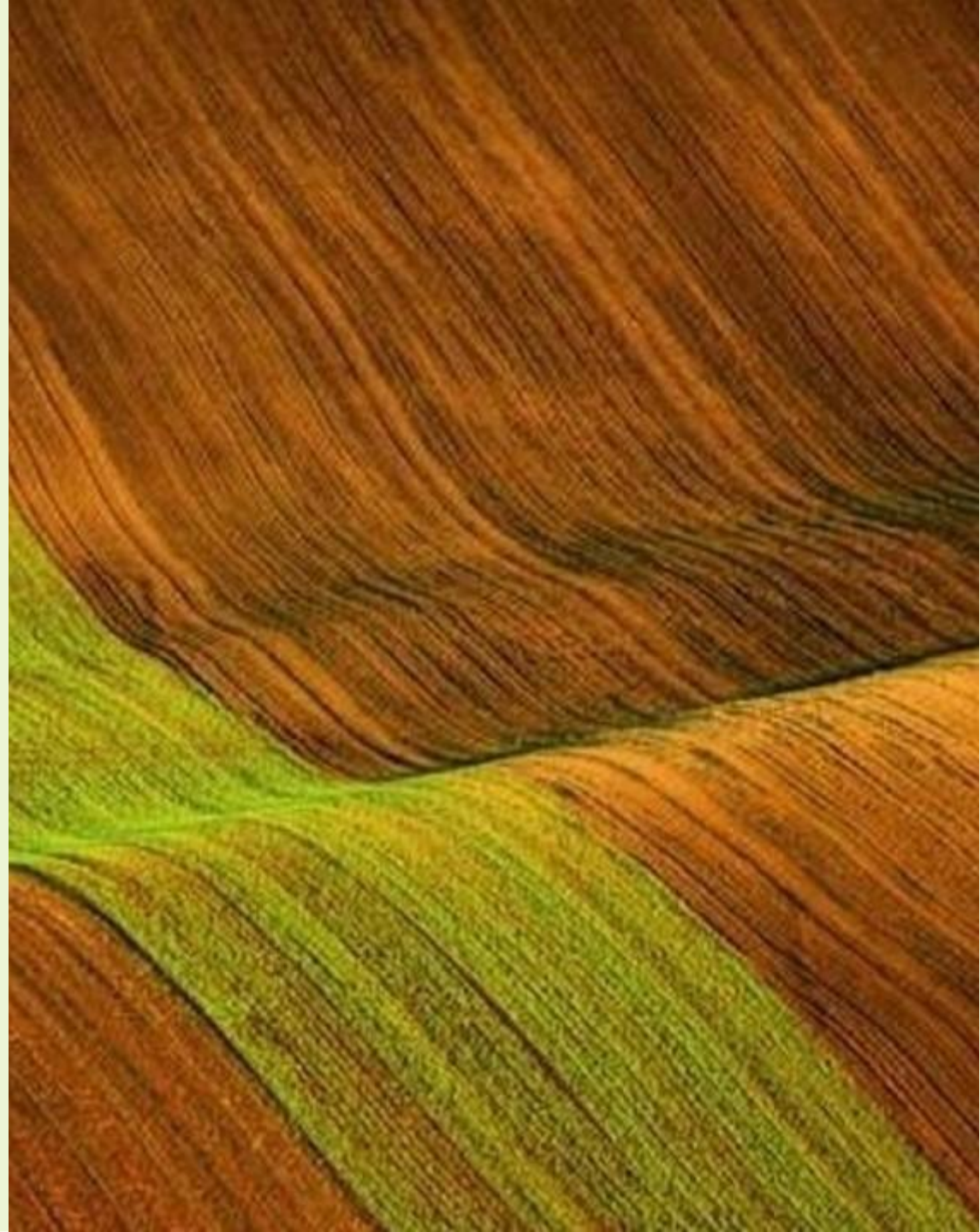
Hydropower

A landscape of rolling hills with green and golden fields under a cloudy sky. The foreground is dominated by lush green grass, while the middle ground shows golden-brown fields, possibly wheat or corn, with visible furrows. The background features more rolling hills and a few scattered trees under a grey, overcast sky.

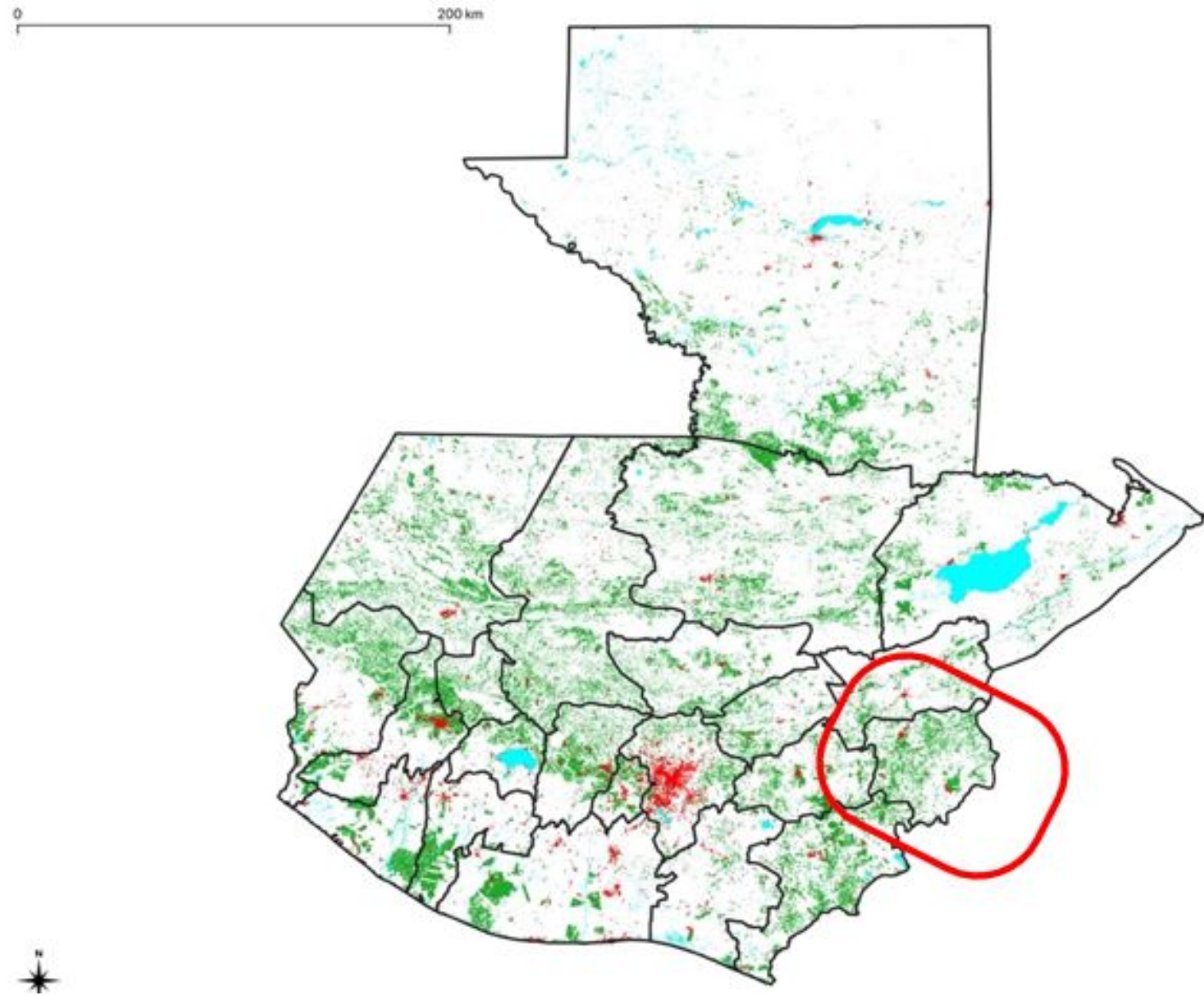
# FOOD PRODUCTION

WFP ANTICIPATORY  
ACTIONS IN GUATEMALA'S  
DRY CORRIDOR

**DIEGO PONS**



# STUDY AREA



# VALIDATING PHENOLOGICAL STAGES FOR MAIZE

This is the most critical step in a data-depleted context for assessing the usability of satellite-derived vegetation indices as proxies for Maize production.

CALENDARIO AGROCLIMÁTICO			ENE	FEB	MAR	ABR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AGO	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DIC
<b>TEMPORADA</b>														
Temporada fría														
Temporada seca														
Temporada de huracanes			Océano Atlántico											
			Océano Pacífico											

Fuente: elaborado con información de INSIVUMEH, FAO, NOAA y MAGA

# MAIZE PRODUCTION AT THE DEPARTMENT LEVEL IN GUATEMALA

## Producción nacional de la cosecha 2016-2017

Producción de maíz blanco (quintales)					
No.	Departamento	1ª. Cosecha	2ª. Cosecha	Total	Porcentaje
1	Guatemala	461,443	332,279	793,722	2.1
2	El Progreso	233,239	167,953	401,192	1.1
3	Sacatepéquez	140,051	100,848	240,899	0.6
4	Chimaltenango	805,273	579,866	1,385,139	3.7
5	Escuintla	940,189	677,017	1,617,206	4.3
6	Santa Rosa	1,171,158	843,335	2,014,493	5.3
7	Sololá	268,878	193,615	462,493	1.2
8	Totonicapán	298,643	215,048	513,691	1.4
9	Quetzaltenango	697,796	502,473	1,200,269	3.2
10	Suchitepéquez	848,700	611,137	1,459,837	3.9
11	Retalhuleu	1,213,562	873,869	2,087,431	5.5
12	San Marcos	957,345	689,371	1,646,716	4.4
13	Huehuetenango	994,804	716,345	1,711,149	4.5
14	Quiché	1,265,624	911,358	2,176,982	5.8
15	Baja Verapaz	449,310	323,542	772,852	2.1
16	Alta Verapaz	2,295,226	1,652,760	3,947,986	10.5
17	Petén	4,502,729	3,242,352	7,745,081	20.6
18	Izabal	804,995	579,666	1,384,661	3.7
19	Zacapa	401,849	289,366	691,215	1.8
20	Chiquimula	724,797	521,916	1,246,713	3.3
21	Jalapa	657,003	473,098	1,130,101	3.0
22	Jutiapa	1,776,476	1,279,216	3,055,692	8.1
<b>Total República</b>		<b>21,909,090</b>	<b>15,776,430</b>	<b>37,685,520</b>	<b>100</b>
Porcentaje sobre la producción nacional		<b>58.14</b>	<b>41.86</b>		
Perdida aproximada de la primera (qq)		<b>6,707,279</b>			
Porcentaje de pérdida sobre la producción de la primera cosecha		<b>30.61</b>			
Porcentaje de pérdida sobre la producción nacional				<b>17.80</b>	

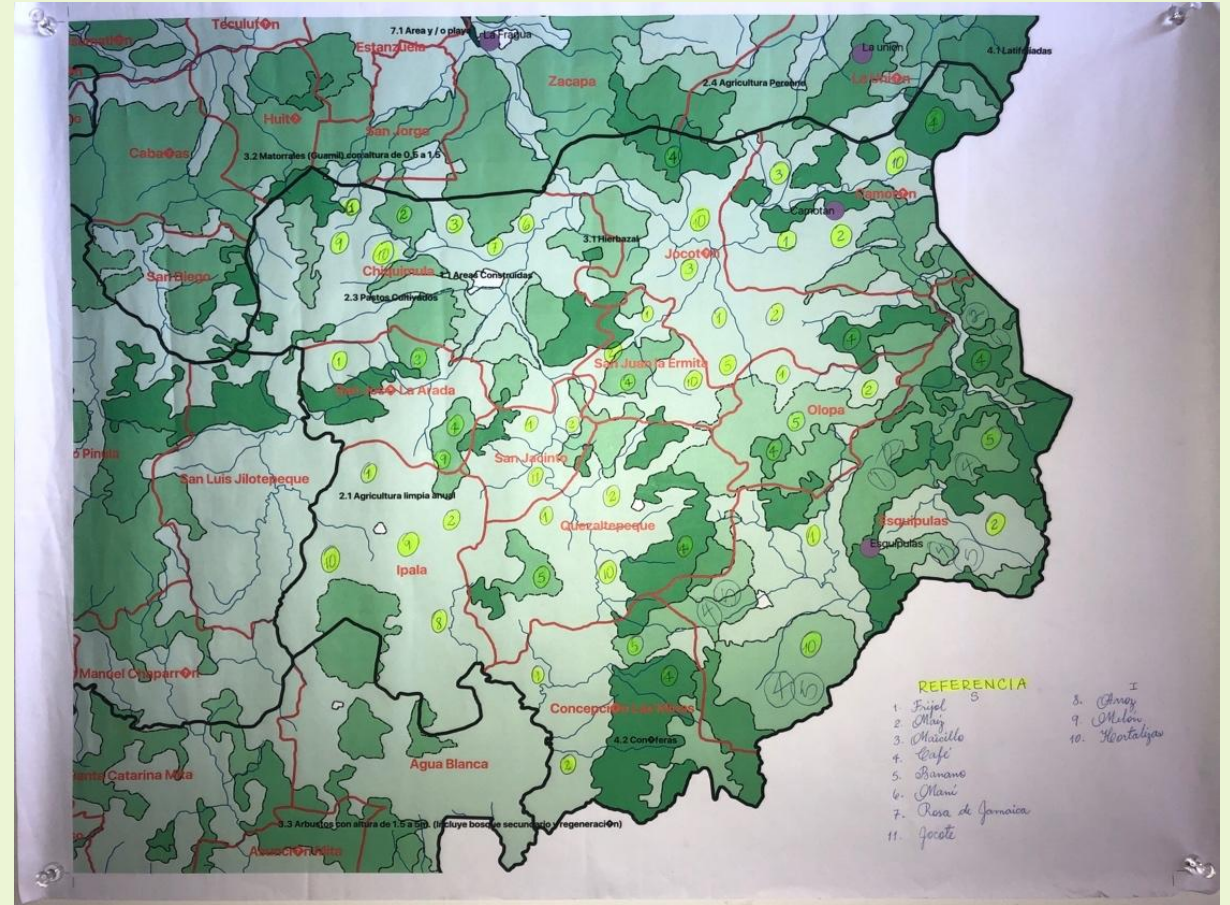
Fuente: Informe de situación del maíz blanco, septiembre de 2017. DIPLAN/MAGA

**IDENTIFICATION OF  
STAPLE AND CASH CROPS  
IN EL CHIQUIMULA**

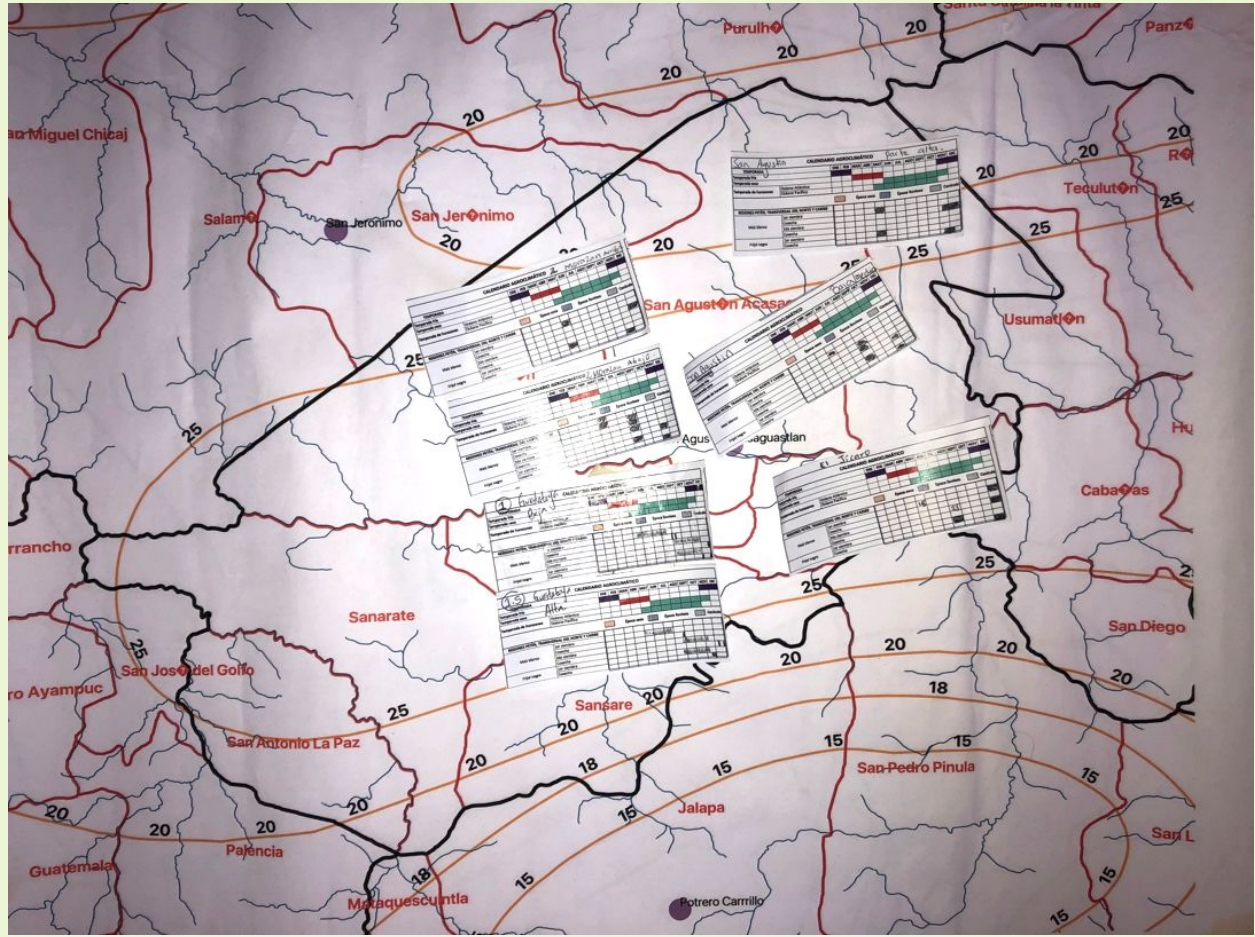




# IDENTIFICATION OF STAPLE AND CASH CROPS IN CHIQUIMULA



# IDENTIFICATION OF AGROCLIMATIC CALENDARS



## DETERMINING HYDROLOGICAL DEMAND OF MAIZE

Only once the agricultural calendar is fully understood then hydrological demand can be assessed and the proper season for forecasting established.

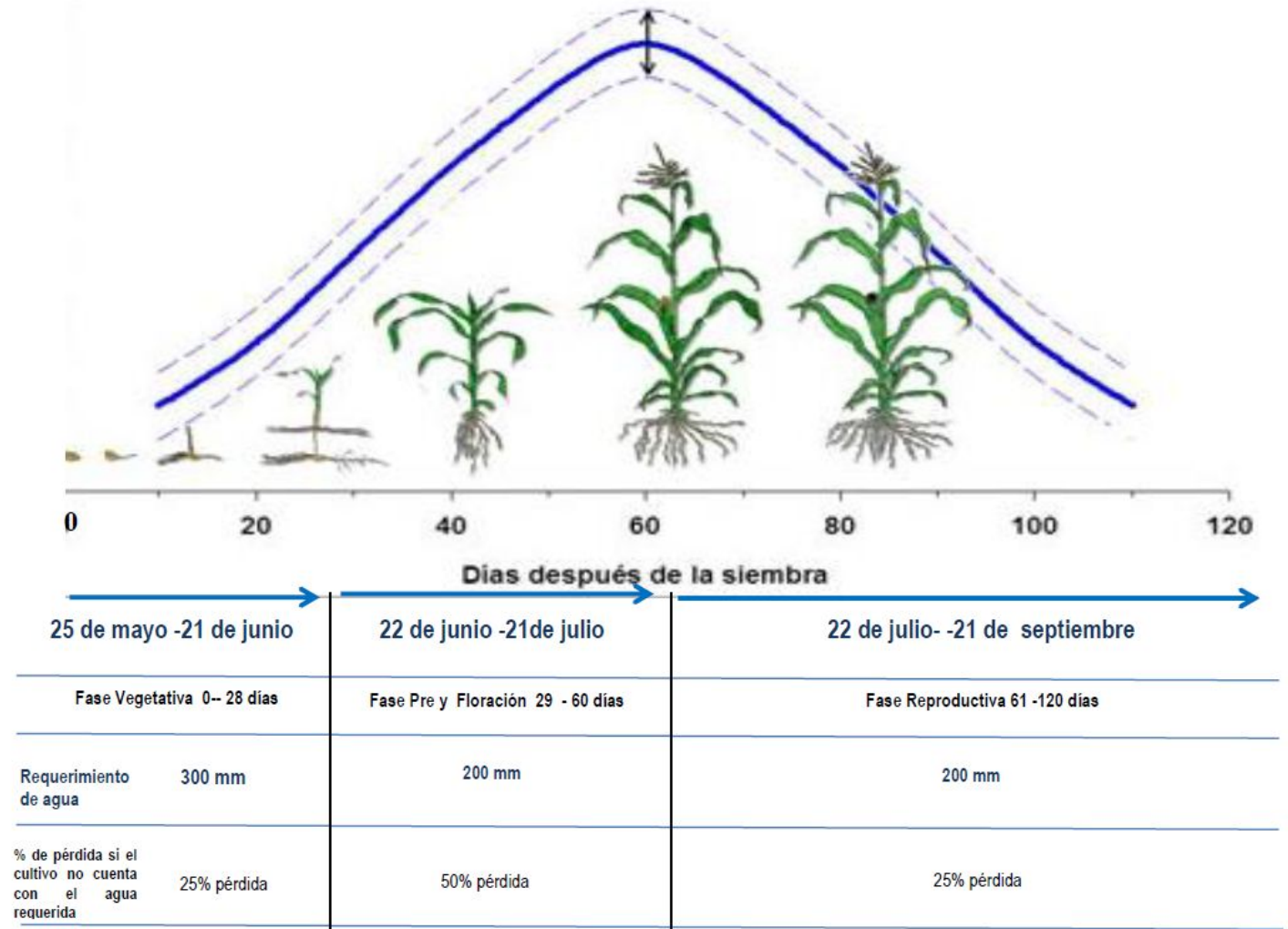
Chronological stages of Maize and their respective minimum water requirements. Modified from Yonts, C.D. et al., 2008 for 112 days maturity corn. Sowing date derived from participatory processes in each of the departments in the eastern dry corridor of Guatemala, namely: El Progreso, Zacapa, and Chiquimula.

Phenological Stage	DAS*	Calendar date (2020)	mm/ day	Total days	Total water demand in mm
VE		5 May 20th	2.032	5	10.16
V4		9 May 24th	2.54	4	10.16
V8		12 May 27th	4.572	3	13.716
VT		55 July 9th	6.604	43	283.972
R1		59 July 13th	8.128	4	32.512
R2		71 July 25th	8.128	12	97.536
R3		80 August 3th	8.128	9	73.152
R4		90 August 13th	6.096	10	60.96
R5		102 August 25th	5.08	12	60.96
R6		112 September 4th	2.54	10	25.4
<b>Total</b>			<b>53.848</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>668.528</b>

Monthly water demand as a percentage of total requirements for 112 days maturity corn.

Month	Total water demand as a percentage of total
May	6.5
June	29.7
July	28.4
August	33.8
September	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

# IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF PRECIPITATION DEFICITS ON MAIZE IN THE DRY CORRIDOR AREA OF GUATEMALA



Gustavo García/FAO/2018 ICTA B7



**Maize in healthy V6 stage in Guatemala's dry corridor area.**

Source: WFP 2019

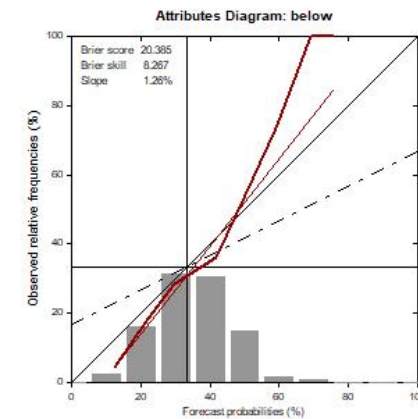
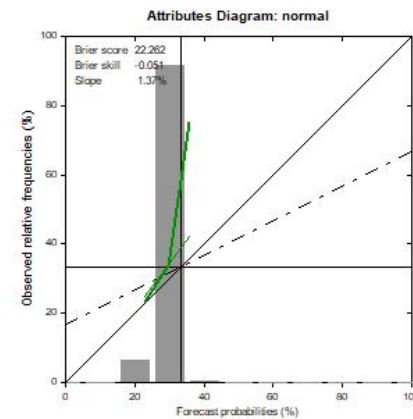
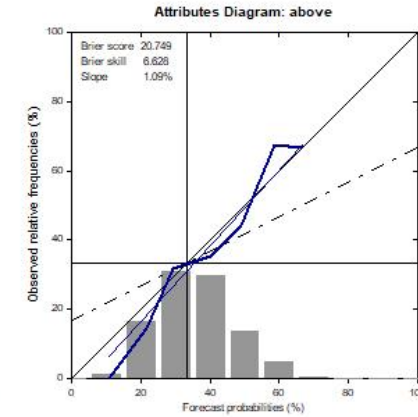
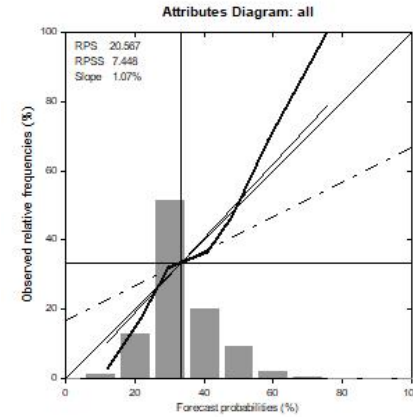
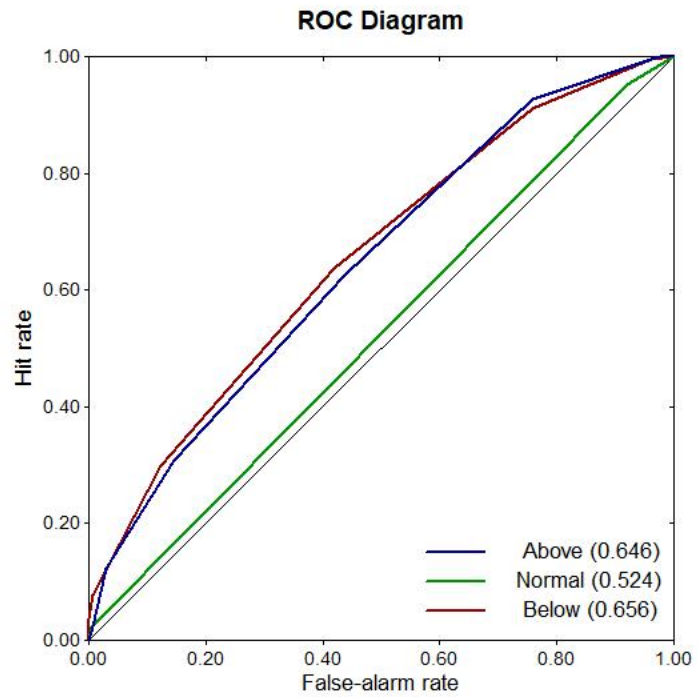


**Dried Maize in VT-R1 phenological stage in Azacualpa Village, Chiquimula**

<b>Predictors</b>	<b>Predictands</b>
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	June-July-August VHI
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	June-July-August NDVI
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	June-July-August SMN
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	June-July-August VCI
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	August VHI
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	August NDVI
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	August SMN
June-July-August precipitation anomaly	August VCI

\*VHI (Vegetation Health Index), VCI (Vegetation Condition Index) NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), SMN (No noise NDVI)

# Discrimination skill and reliability



\*Discrimination skill: Is the forecast probability higher when an event occurs compared to when it doesn't occur? (Mason 2015)

\*\*Reliability diagram : Observed relative frequency vs forecast probabilities (Mason 2015)

## DID IT WORK?

Evidence suggests that the triggers worked, but financial assistance provided was not enough to overcome the crisis associated with famine-induced drought.





# IMPACT EVALUATION



Temática	Variable(pregunta)	LB Control	PDM Control	LB Tratamiento	PDM Tratamiento
Acceso a información climática/meteorológica	Tiene acceso a información climática	30.9%	29.9%	17.0%	100.0%
	Usted o alguien del hogar recibe información climática en el momento adecuado para tomar decisiones adecuadas	51.3%	30.3%	48.3%	68.5%
	La información climática recibida es clara y permite comprender cómo afectará el clima a las personas o los medios de subsistencia/vida.	20.3%	14.2%	12.8%	58.1%

Source: WFP 2023

# IMPACT EVALUATION



Temática	Variable(pregunta)	LB Control	PDM Control	LB Tratamiento	PDM Tratamiento
Disponibilidad y acceso a mecanismos de financiación de contingencia	¿Ha recibido su comunidad algún tipo de ayuda de instituciones gubernamentales, agencias de la ONU u ONGs en caso de crisis climáticas en los últimos tres años?	1.1%	5.1%	7.7%	100.0%
	¿Recibió la asistencia de manera oportuna para hacer frente a las consecuencias de la crisis?	0.0%	2.6%	25.0%	94.2%
	¿La asistencia prestada fue suficiente para recuperarse de las pérdidas sufridas?	0.0%	1.5%	30.0%	0.0%

Source: WFP 2023

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green wheat. A stream flows through the middle ground, winding between the hills. The background shows more hills and some trees. The overall scene is rural and scenic.

# HYDROPOWER



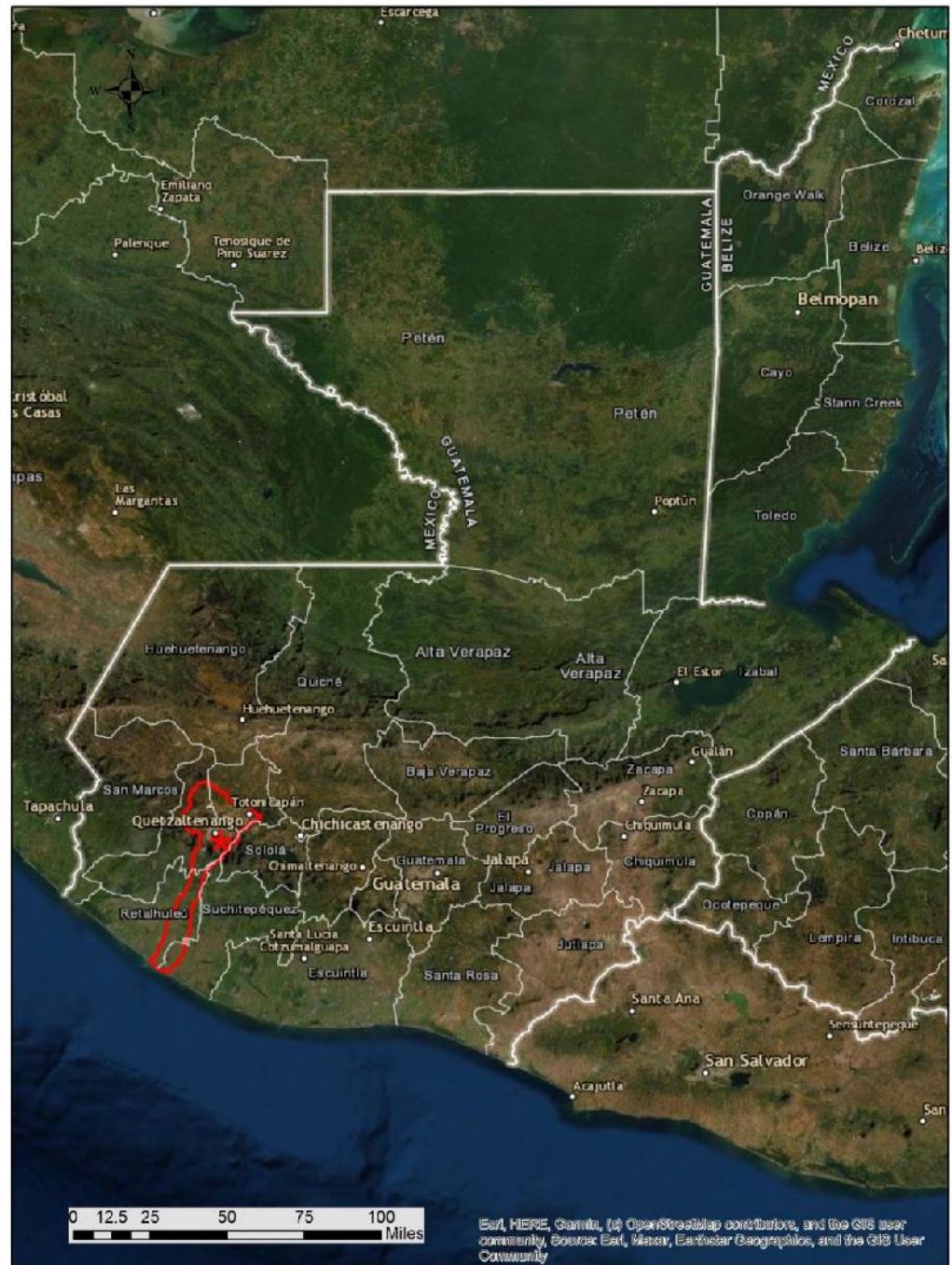
FORECASTING  
STREAMFLOW IN THE  
UPPER SAMALÁ RIVER  
WATERSHED

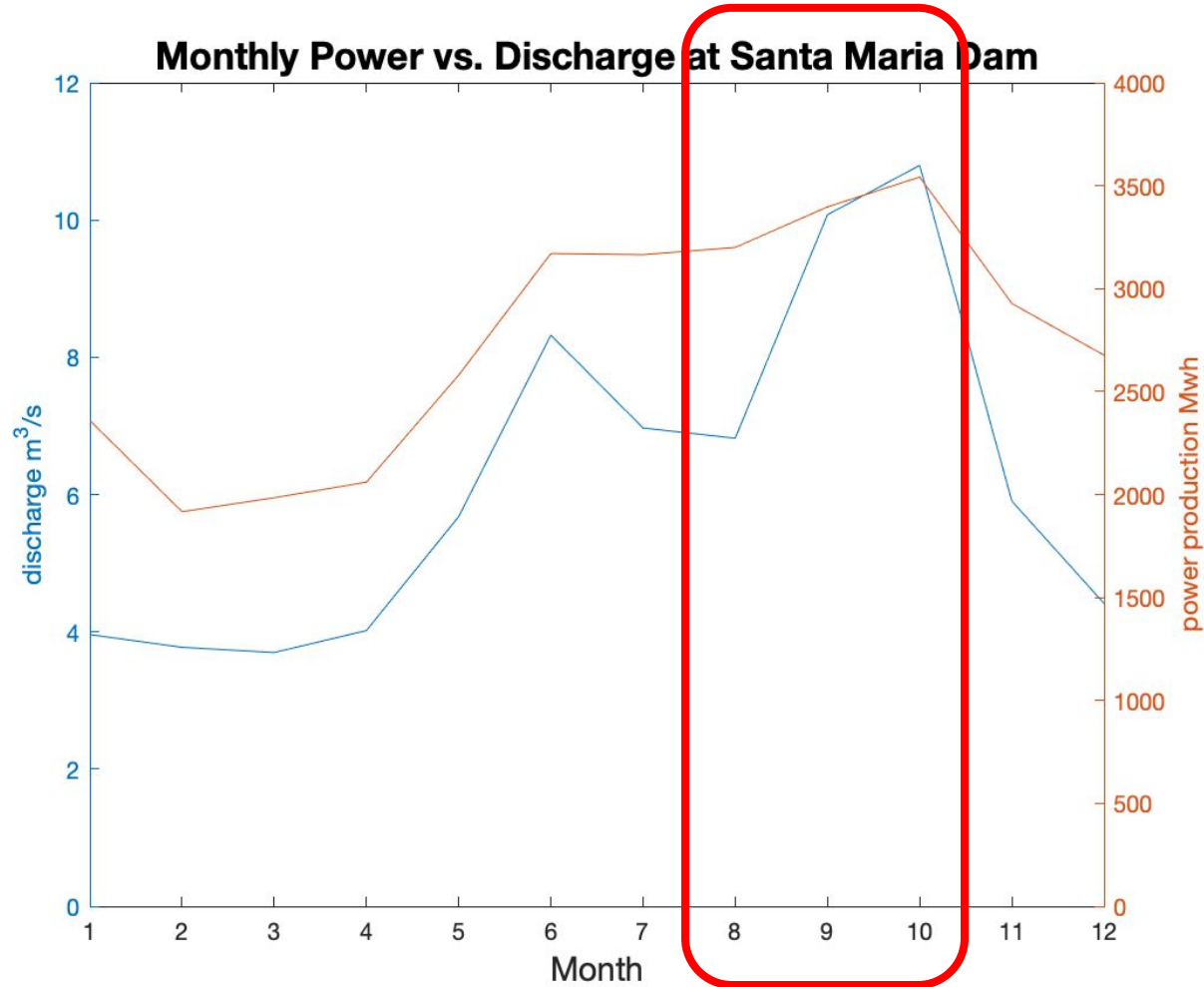
**DIEGO PONS & ASHER SIEBERT**

Available in: Safeguarding Mountain Social-Ecological  
Systems

*A Global Challenge : Facing Emerging Risks, Adapting to  
Changing Environments and Building Transformative  
Resilience in Mountain Regions Worldwide. Vol 2.*

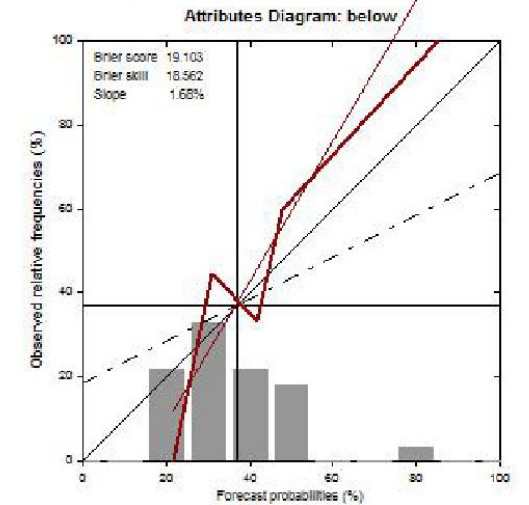
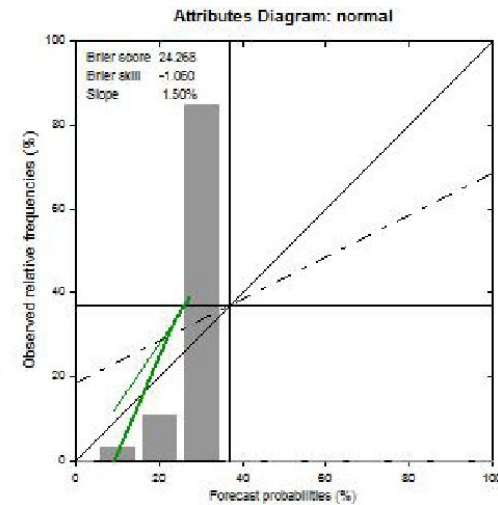
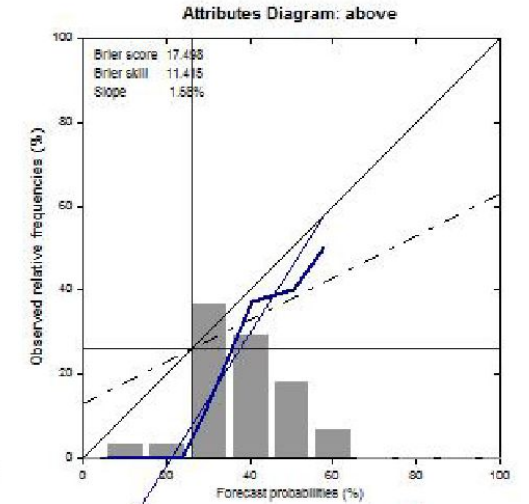
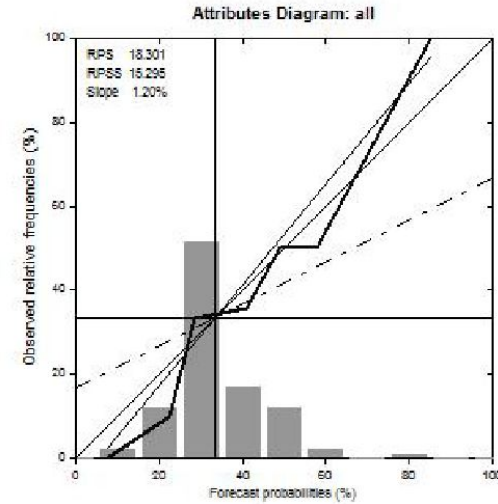
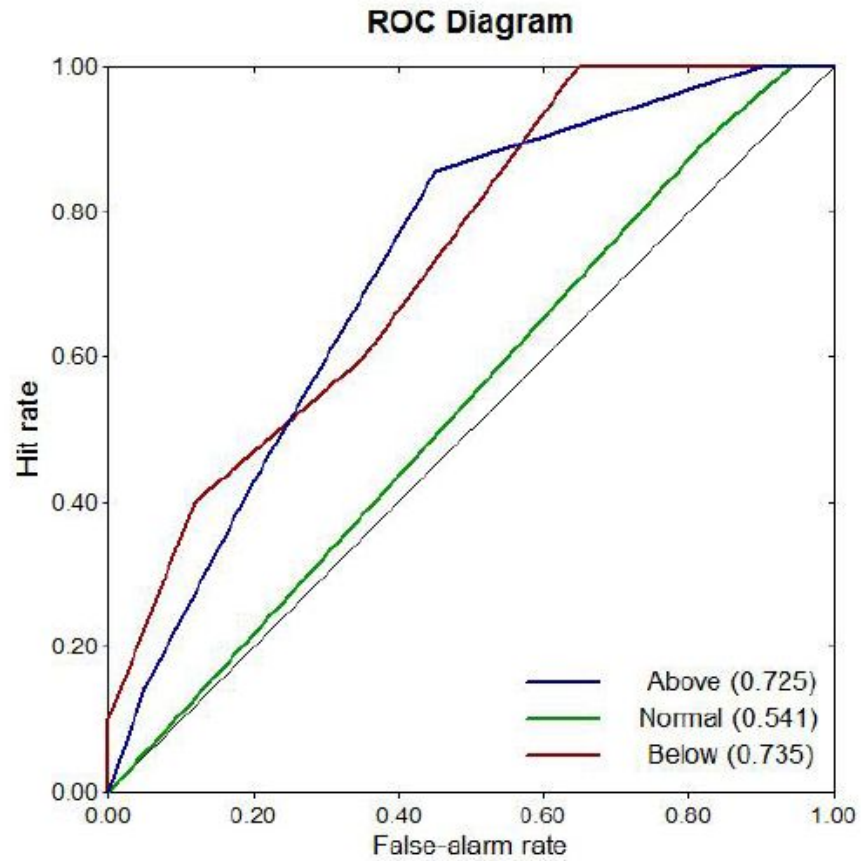
# SAMALÁ WATERSHED





- What are the more critical months for energy production?
- Can we forecast those months and how far back can we do so?
- Is this of any use to decision-makers?

# Seasonal Precipitation Forecast for Q estimates





# WILDFIRES

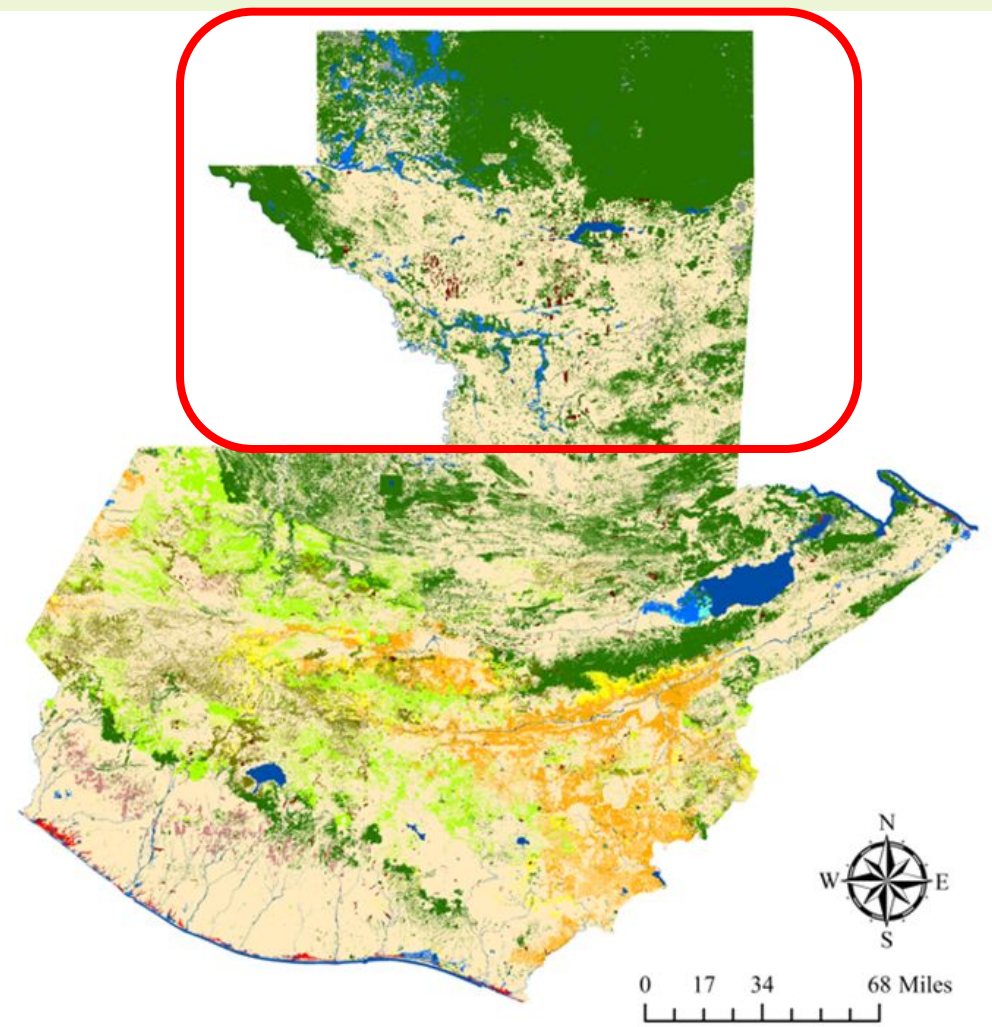




WILDFIRES AND PRECIPITATION IN THE  
LOWLANDS OF GUATEMALA

**TANMOY MALAKER & DIEGO PONS**

# STUDY AREA



## Guatemala Forest Cover

- Coniferous forest
- Broadleaf forest
- Mixed forest

- Dry forest
- Wetlands
- Rubber
- Not forest
- Water bodies
- scattered trees

## Legend

- Forest plantations
- Coniferous Gallery Forest
- Broadleaf Gallery Forest
- Mixed Gallery Forest
- Clouds
- White Mangrove Forest
- Red Mangrove Forest
- Black Mangrove Forest
- Botoncillo Mangrove Forest
- Red Mangrove Forest
- Wetland with Forest

## Fire history

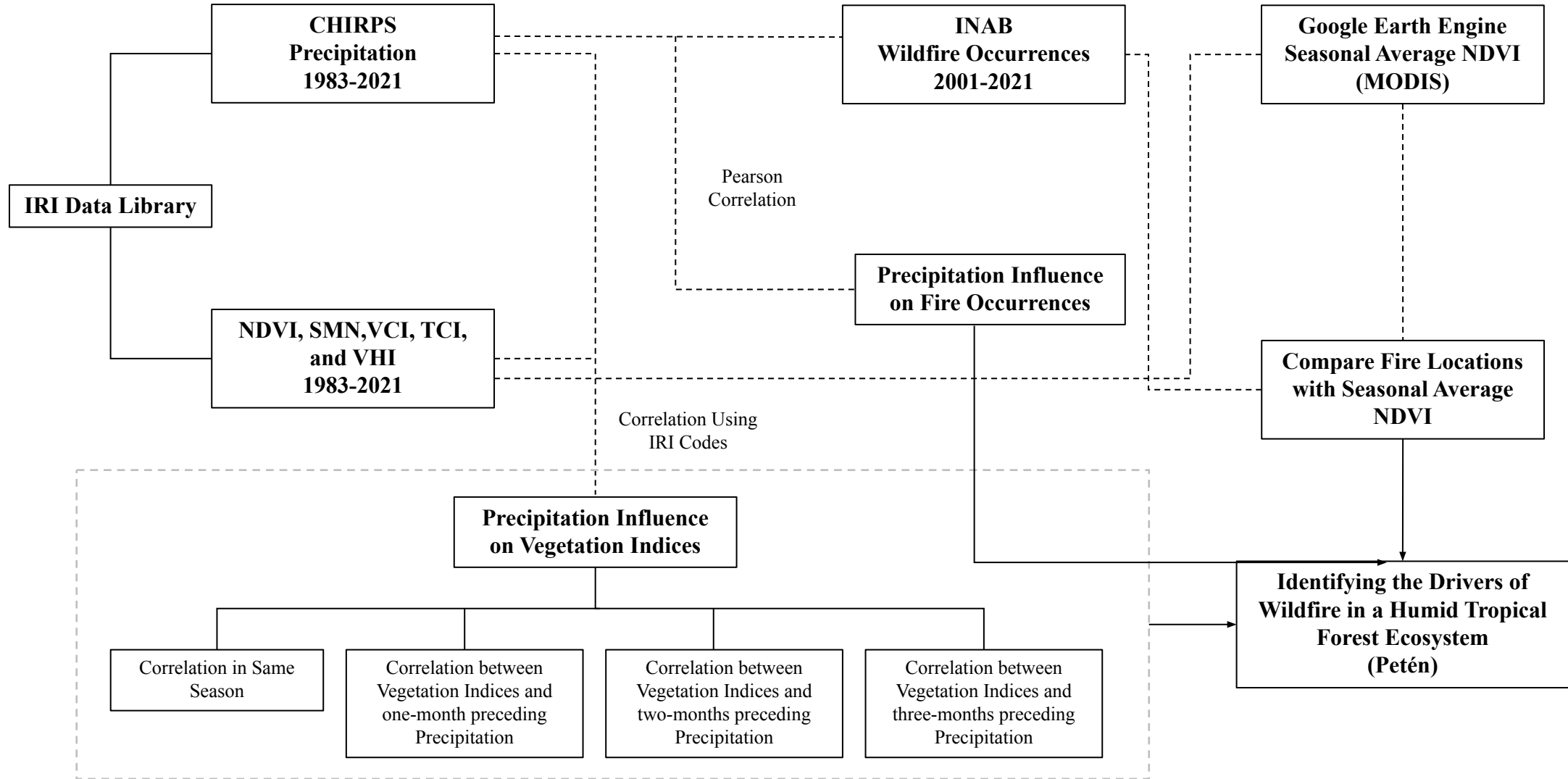
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- The data on fire occurrences in Petén from 2001 to 2021 (INAB, 2022) show a significant concentration in March-April-May (Fire season). About 95.30 percent of the fire occurrence has occurred in the Fire Season (March-April-May).
- The table also shows how the fire occurrence seasons have spread in recent years, where the fire incidents occur in months or seasons that have not experienced any fire in the last 15-20 years.
- The table includes only the wildfires.

**Monthly fire occurrences in Petén from 2001 to 2021**

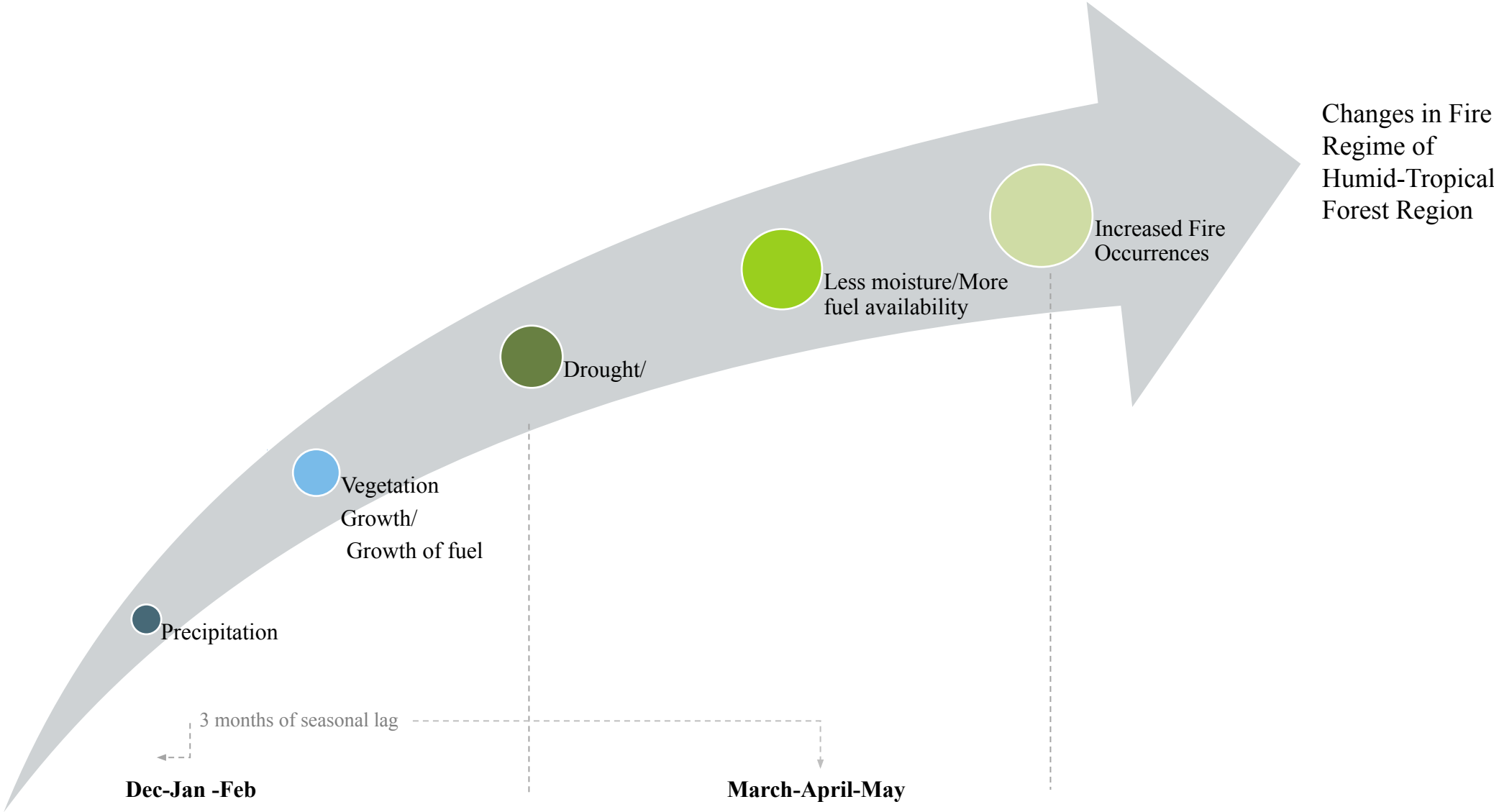
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2001			2	9	2							
2002				14	21							
2003		5	71	5	42							
2004				3								
2005	1		29	24	3	1						
2006			1	8	13							
2007			1	25	43							
2008				5	12							
2009	3	2	11	47	11							
2010	2		15	12		1						
2011		1	9	41	26	2						
2012		1	5	22	34							
2013				14	5							
2014			5	21								
2015				10				1				
2016		2	5	52	70	5						
2017		3	16	84	4							
2018	1	2	6	9	6							
2019		1	16	30	29							
2020	2	3									1	1
2021		1	4	13	9	3	1	1		1		

# Analysis



# Conclusion

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Source: Malaker 2023

THANK YOU

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