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Government of Afghanistan
Ministry of Counter Narcotics

AFGHANISTAN

Opium Rapid Assessment Survey



February 2006

Abbreviations

ANP	Afghan National Police
CPEF	Central Poppy Eradication Force
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICMP	Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (UNODC)
MCN	Ministry of Counter-Narcotics
Mol	Ministry of the Interior
ORAS	Opium Rapid Assessment Survey
RAS	Research and Analysis Section (UNODC)
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of its global Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP), UNODC cooperates with the Afghan Government to operate an opium monitoring system and to conduct annual opium surveys in Afghanistan, the largest centre of illicit opium production in the world.

To ensure effective and continuous monitoring of the opium production problem in the country, the system includes three distinct but interrelated components:

1. OPIUM RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY (DECEMBER-JANUARY)

The objective of the Opium Rapid Assessment Survey (ORAS) is to assess the situation at the middle of the cultivation cycle in order to guide the preparation of the Annual Opium Survey. Implemented over a three-week period beginning in early December, the ORAS collects information on the geographical distribution and dynamics of opium poppy cultivation and anticipated harvest times. It also attempts to gather information on other factors likely to influence the implementation of the Annual Opium Survey, such as eradication activities and the security situation on the ground. It does not give a quantitative forecast of the forthcoming opium harvest. The ORAS 2006 was conducted earlier than the ORAS of previous years in order to make the relevant results available to the Afghan Government and main stakeholders in good time, i.e. before the opium poppy flowering period. The early scheduling of the survey has the added advantage that the field work can be completed before weather conditions become unfavourable.

2. ANNUAL OPIUM SURVEY (MARCH-AUGUST)

Implemented from April to August, the Annual Opium Survey combines ground-level and remote sensing activities to create a robust yet flexible opium monitoring instrument. It provides quantitative estimates and detailed maps of the geographical distribution and levels of opium poppy cultivation and opium production during the year. The report of this survey is published around September. The 2006 Survey will comprise the following elements:

Opium Poppy Cultivation Survey

Estimates of areas under opium poppy cultivation in the provinces of Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Helmand, Farah, Nimroz, Faryab, Jawzjan, Badghis, Sari Pul, Samangan, Daykundi, Ghor, Herat, Zabul and Balkh will be drawn up using satellite images (in 19 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces). A village survey will monitor opium poppy cultivation in those provinces which are not covered by satellite imagery. In addition, the Village Survey for 2006 will cover issues relating to cannabis cultivation, poverty, drug trafficking and a variety of socio-economic factors affecting villages and farmers.

Crop Development Survey

In order to gain a better understanding of crop development over the year and its associated phenological patterns in different ecological zones, surveyors take photos of fields with opium poppy, wheat and a number of other crops in strategically selected villages every 15 days over a period of two and a half months. The location of the photographs is recorded with a GPS device. This information helps to optimize the timing of the field work of the Opium Poppy Cultivation Survey and facilitates a more detailed interpretation of the satellite images.

Yield Survey

A capsule measurement survey is carried out during harvest time to estimate opium poppy yield. A village survey will be carried out in 320 villages, in each of which three fields will be visited.

Eradication Verification Survey

Eradication activities in 2006 will be carried out by Governors, the Afghan Eradication Forces (AEF) and the Afghan National Police (ANP). The Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UNODC will jointly verify all eradication activities, using village survey visits, aerial photographs and satellite images.

3. MONTHLY PRICE COLLECTION

As a proxy indicator of opium market dynamics in Afghanistan, opium prices are collected every month throughout the year in various provinces of Afghanistan (Helmand, Kandahar, Nangahar, Badakhshan, Balkh and Herat). In 2006, price collection will be extended to other selected provinces such as Farah, Ghor and Faryab.

This report presents the findings of the 2006 Opium Rapid Assessment Survey. The results of the ORAS provide important inputs for planning the forthcoming Annual Opium Survey, *inter alia* with respect to security provided for the surveyors, trends in and the importance of opium poppy cultivation, eradication levels, expected harvest time, etc.

The survey reports are available at: http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring

1. METHODOLOGY

The Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, including training and deployment, was conducted from 4 December 2005 to 8 January 2006 by 70 local field surveyors. It was jointly supervised by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) and UNODC. The surveyors were selected on the basis of their experience in opium poppy surveys, knowledge of local customs and their acceptance by local communities.

The surveyors conducted structured interviews with the 'headmen' of selected villages in each district. A total of 469 villages in 266 districts were surveyed across all provinces.¹ A stratified sampling method was used to select the villages. The results of previous surveys show that opium poppy cultivation is most successful at altitudes below 1500m, where it is significantly more widespread than in areas of higher elevation, whereas opium poppy cultivation above 2500m is comparatively rare. In view of the uneven distribution of opium poppy cultivation at different elevations, a stratified sampling method was used to select the sample villages. The villages in the sampling frame were divided into three groups (strata) according to their elevation:

Group 1: Villages located at an elevation of less than 1500m

Group 2: Villages located at elevations between 1500m and 2500m

Group 3: Villages located at an elevation of more than 2500m

Villages were selected from each group using a systematic random selection technique. The total sampling ratio was 1.5 per cent. The design and size of the sample facilitate the establishment of cultivation trends. The sample is not designed for calculating quantitative areas or production estimates. In addition to the sample villages, the surveyors, using their knowledge of the local situation, visited other areas in the province to complement their assessment both of opium poppy cultivation trends and the security situation throughout the province.

Surveyor training and data collection

A total of 70 surveyors, together with nine survey coordinators, were given training in the use of the survey form and survey techniques over a four-day period prior to the survey by local UNODC staff in Kabul.

In Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation is illegal and considered to be forbidden under Islam. The collection of information on such a sensitive subject is therefore difficult and can be dangerous. Surveyors are selected from different regions of Afghanistan through a very careful selection process. UNODC and MCN regional offices and coordinators recruit surveyors according to the survey specifications and the surveyors' skills. Most of the selected surveyors already have experience in conducting UNODC surveys.

Surveyors were trained in techniques for approaching local community members and conducting interviews. Following intensive theoretical and practical training, they were deployed to the field, where *inter alia* they interviewed headmen of villages. UNODC and MCN coordinators monitored both the surveyors and the progress of the survey closely. Fortunately, the surveyors did not face any security problems.

¹ In 2005, the Afghan Government reorganized the country's administrative division into 34 provinces. However, for technical reasons, the ORAS 2006 was designed, and its results are presented, according to the previous administrative division of 32 provinces.

On a trial basis, the surveyors also collected information relating to crime and the justice system. The data collected and experience gained will provide useful information for the further development of crime-related data collection activities.

Photo: Surveyors during training



Photo: Data collection (surveyor interviews village headman)



2. FINDINGS

2.1. GENERAL FINDINGS

Opium poppy cultivation

The Opium Rapid Assessment Survey (ORAS) for 2006 shows an increasing trend in opium poppy cultivation in 13 provinces, a decreasing trend in three provinces and no change in 16 provinces as compared to the results of the Annual Opium Poppy Survey 2005.

At the end of February 2005, the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UNODC announced an expected decrease in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, which was confirmed by the survey results reported in August 2005. In 2005, the main reason for that decrease was non-cultivation in major opium poppy-growing provinces such as Nangarhar, Uruzgan, Laghman, Badakhshan and Kunar. However, ORAS results for 2006 indicate that the situation is different this year. Villagers have already planted crops on a scale equal to or exceeding that of 2005, on the basis of which opium poppy cultivation in the majority of Afghanistan's provinces is not expected to decrease in 2006. This situation may change, however, depending on the eradication campaign scheduled for 2006. No major eradication activity was reported in Afghanistan between the beginning of the planting period (October-November 2005) and the end of December 2005.

A comparison of provincial trends expected in 2006 and opium poppy cultivation levels in the same provinces in 2005 indicates an increase in cultivation in 13 of 32 provinces in 2006. Farmers in those provinces are aware of the Government's ban on opium poppy cultivation and the planned eradication campaign, but do not believe that those measures will be enforced. In the Helmand, Badakhshan, Zabul, Ghor and Uruzgan provinces, which together accounted for 40 per cent of the total area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2005, a sharp increase in cultivation is expected. Whilst in 2005 there was a steep decrease in cultivation (by 58 per cent in Uruzgan and 53 per cent in Badakhshan) compared to 2004, most villagers have now resumed opium poppy cultivation in the majority of districts in those provinces. In Nangarhar province, in districts close to the centre — where the provincial police have strong control — villagers have avoided opium poppy cultivation, whereas in remote districts most farmers are cultivating opium poppy at much higher levels than in 2005.

An expected decrease in opium poppy cultivation is reported in only three provinces where opium poppy cultivation is neither traditional nor intensive (Nuristan, Sari Pul and Samangan). In 16 provinces, the same level of cultivation as in 2005 is expected in 2006.

Both the 2005 Annual Opium Survey and the 2006 Opium Rapid Assessment Survey confirm that opium poppy grows more successfully in villages at elevations below 1500m than in those at higher elevations. Cultivation at elevations above 2500m is very limited due to poor weather conditions.

Opium poppy may still be planted in upland areas of the northern and central provinces until mid-March, particularly in rain-fed areas, potentially leading to a further increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan as a result of good snow coverage and water availability.

Eradication

The Opium Rapid Assessment Survey did not assess the implementation of the eradication campaign, but collected general information on eradication activities in those districts visited. Limited eradication was reported in the Balkh, Kandahar, Sari Pul, Samangan and Laghman provinces by the beginning of January 2006.

Eradication activities will be implemented largely from mid-January 2006 by Governors in Afghanistan, following which the Afghan Eradication Forces (AEF), the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Governors will carry out eradication jointly in opium poppy-growing provinces. The Ministry of Counter-Narcotics and UNODC will jointly verify eradication activities carried out in 2006.

Reasons for opium poppy cultivation

Respondents reported the following reasons for opium poppy cultivation (Table 1):

Table 1: Reasons for opium poppy cultivation in 2006

Reasons for cultivation	Number of observations	Percentage
Poverty alleviation (provision of basic food and shelter)	225	37.2%
High sale price of opium	178	29.4%
No aid received from Government or other sources	122	20.2%
Purchase of luxury items (e.g. vehicle, television, etc.)	40	6.6%
Greater profit in relation to area of land cultivated	18	3.0%
External pressure (e.g. from traders or local commanders)	13	2.1%
Lack of water during summer	3	0.5%
High price of food	2	0.3%
Low prices for wheat and cotton	2	0.3%
Demand among addicts	1	0.2%
Lack of land	1	0.2%
Total	605	100.0%

Opium poppy farmers earn up to 10 times more per hectare cultivated than cereal farmers, which makes opium poppy cultivation an attractive option for farmers (see Afghanistan Opium Survey 2005 (UNODC)). Some 20 per cent of those farmers interviewed complain of lack of aid or assistance. Interestingly, 6.6 per cent gave “purchase of luxury items” such as televisions, vehicles, refrigerators, etc., as their reason for growing opium poppy.

Unemployment is a persistent problem in Afghanistan. The ORAS reports that some 23 per cent of the male population (age 15 and above) in the survey sample are unemployed. The rural population expects more employment opportunities from the government – an expectation that is often not fulfilled.

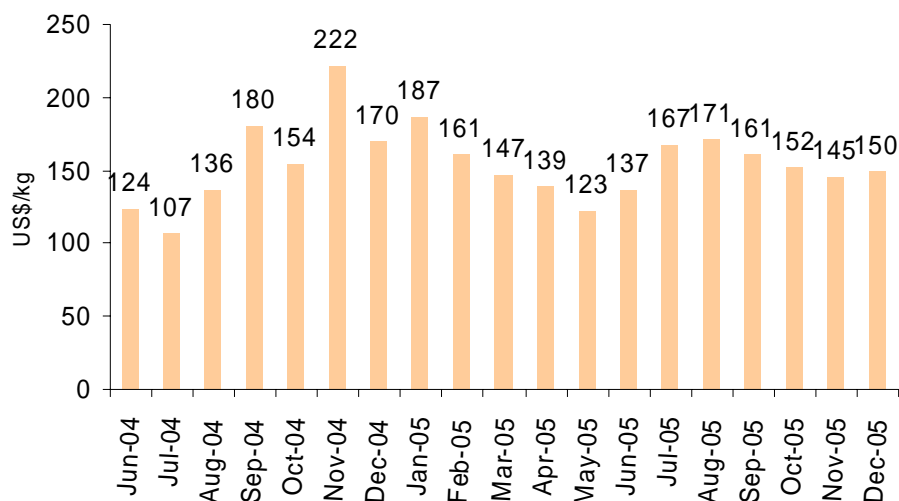
In villages visited in the Badakhshan, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul and Nimroz provinces, farmers reported that they had received advance payments from drug traffickers to grow opium poppy.

Groups such as drug smugglers are encouraging villagers to grow opium poppy, particularly in Helmand province. They give villagers guarantees for the protection of land on which opium poppy is cultivated, and in some areas use threats and intimidation to force those farmers that have not yet cultivated opium poppy to do so.

Prices

In addition to the monthly collection of price information for key provinces, the ORAS 2006 collected price information in all 469 villages surveyed. The average farm-gate price of dry opium is US\$144 per kilogramme, whilst fresh opium costs US\$113 per kilogramme (prices as at time of survey). An overview of dry opium prices by province shows that prices are higher in southern, western and eastern provinces, whilst generally lower in the northern provinces.

Graph 1: Average farm-gate prices for dry opium (US\$/kg)



Source: UNODC Monthly Opium Price Report for Afghanistan, December 2005

High prices are found *inter alia* in Nangarhar and Nimroz. In Nangarhar, where law enforcement is strong, the price of dry opium per kilogramme is US\$207. In Nimroz, a border province that is used as a major trafficking route to Iran and Pakistan, prices reach US\$205 per kilogramme. Map 6 illustrates these regional price differences for dry opium.

Farmers in Afghanistan usually cultivate crops twice a year in irrigated areas, typically growing maize, rice, vegetables or cotton following the opium poppy or wheat harvest. Some grow cannabis following the first harvest during the summer. ORAS results indicate that farmers earn a net per hectare income of US\$540 from cotton, US\$665 from vegetables and US\$1,650 from maize. A wheat farmer can earn a net income of US\$450 per hectare. None of Afghanistan's agricultural products can currently match per hectare income from opium poppy, which is estimated at US\$4000.

External assistance

Of the 469 villages visited, 429 received external assistance (91 per cent). A total of 927 assistance activities were reported in those 429 villages. The distribution of external assistance is presented in Table 2:

Table 2: Distribution of external assistance activities 2005

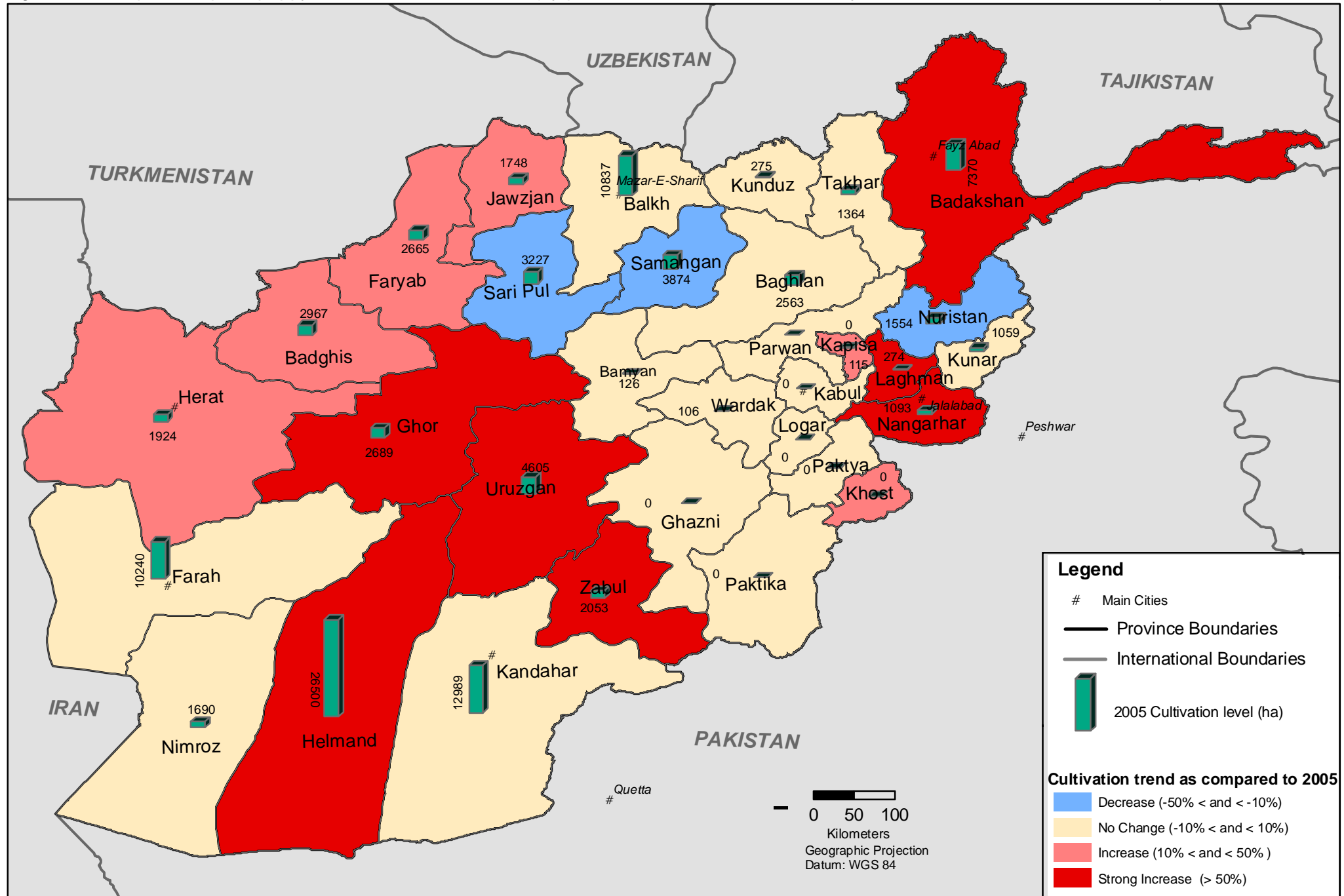
Assistance received	GOVERNMENT	NGOs (Including USAID)	Provincial Reconstructio n Team (PRT)	RED CROSS	UN	USAID	WHO	Total	Total as percentage
Medical (including vaccinations)	165	86	3	1	130	1	12	398	42.8%
Agricultural inputs (including fertilizers)	98	46	5		8	7		167	18.0%
Education/school	48	54	2		36	8		148	15.9%
Construction (roads/other)	32	70	5		16	5		128	13.8%
Cash for labour	11	35	5		5	1		57	6.1%
Electricity	6	4			1			11	1.2%
Drinking water		5						5	0.5%
Food		1		1	3			5	0.5%
Dam construction	2	1	1					4	0.4%
Cash as credits		2						2	0.2%
Carpet-weaving machines		1						1	0.1%
Digging of deep wells		1						1	0.1%
Household appliances		1						1	0.1%
Tents				1				1	0.1%
Wheat as payment for labour					1			1	0.1%
Total	362	307	21	3	200	22	12	930	100.0%

In those villages visited, 21 per cent of assistance activities were provided by the United Nations. External assistance provided between January 2005 and January 2006 was largely non-agricultural. In 2004, agricultural assistance activities accounted for 11 per cent of the total assistance provided, as compared to 18 per cent in 2005.

Field security

Security was good in most provinces during the Opium Rapid Assessment Survey. However, it was a concern in most areas of Kandahar, Zabul, Farah, the border districts of Nangarhar, Paktya, Paktika and Khost and northern and southern areas of Helmand. This situation may worsen as the opium poppy flowering or harvesting period approaches, since most of these areas report that villagers and certain groups are prepared to resist eradication.

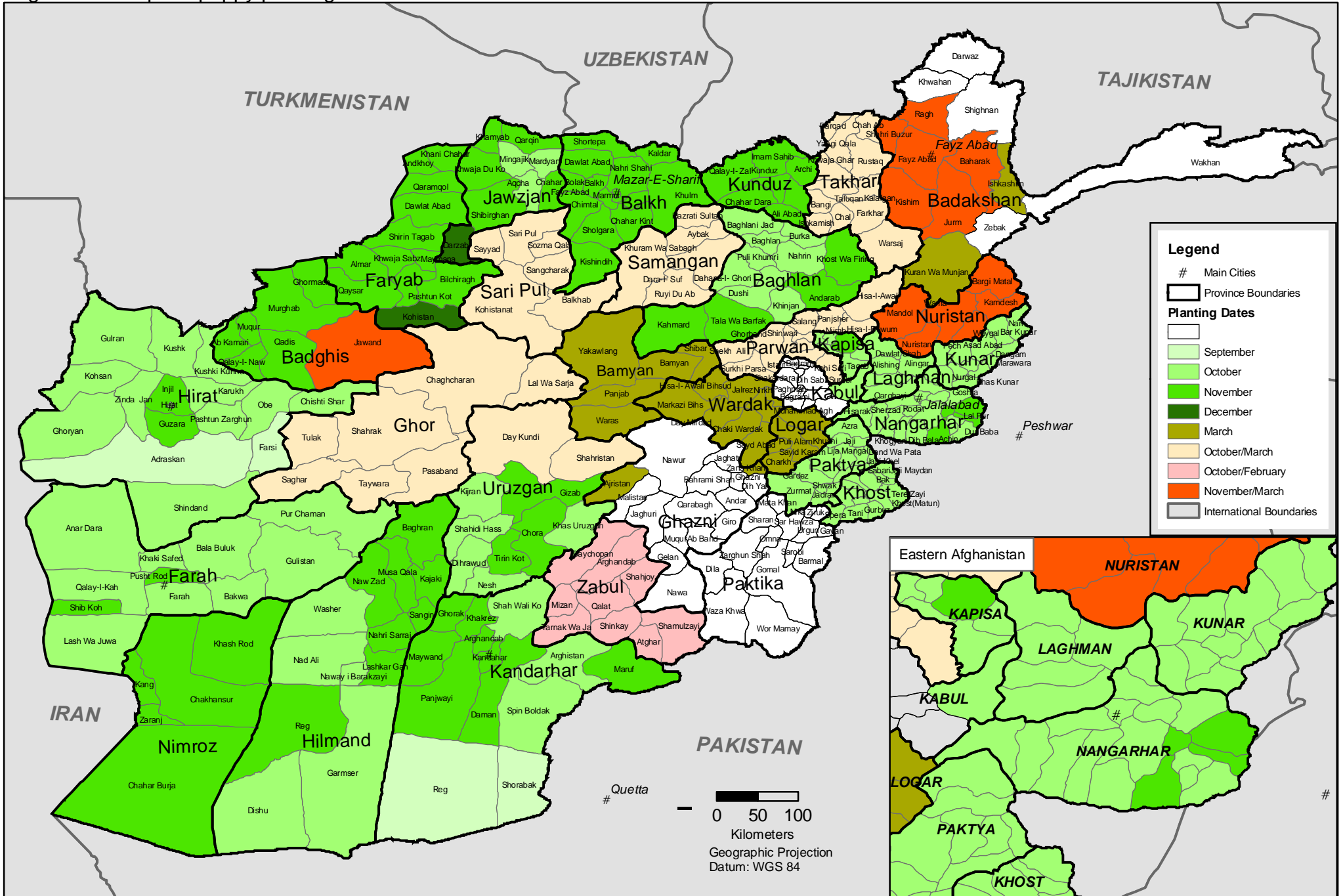
Afghanistan: Expected opium poppy cultivation trends in 2006 (by province -at the time of the Survey, 10th December 2005 - 4th January 2006)



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

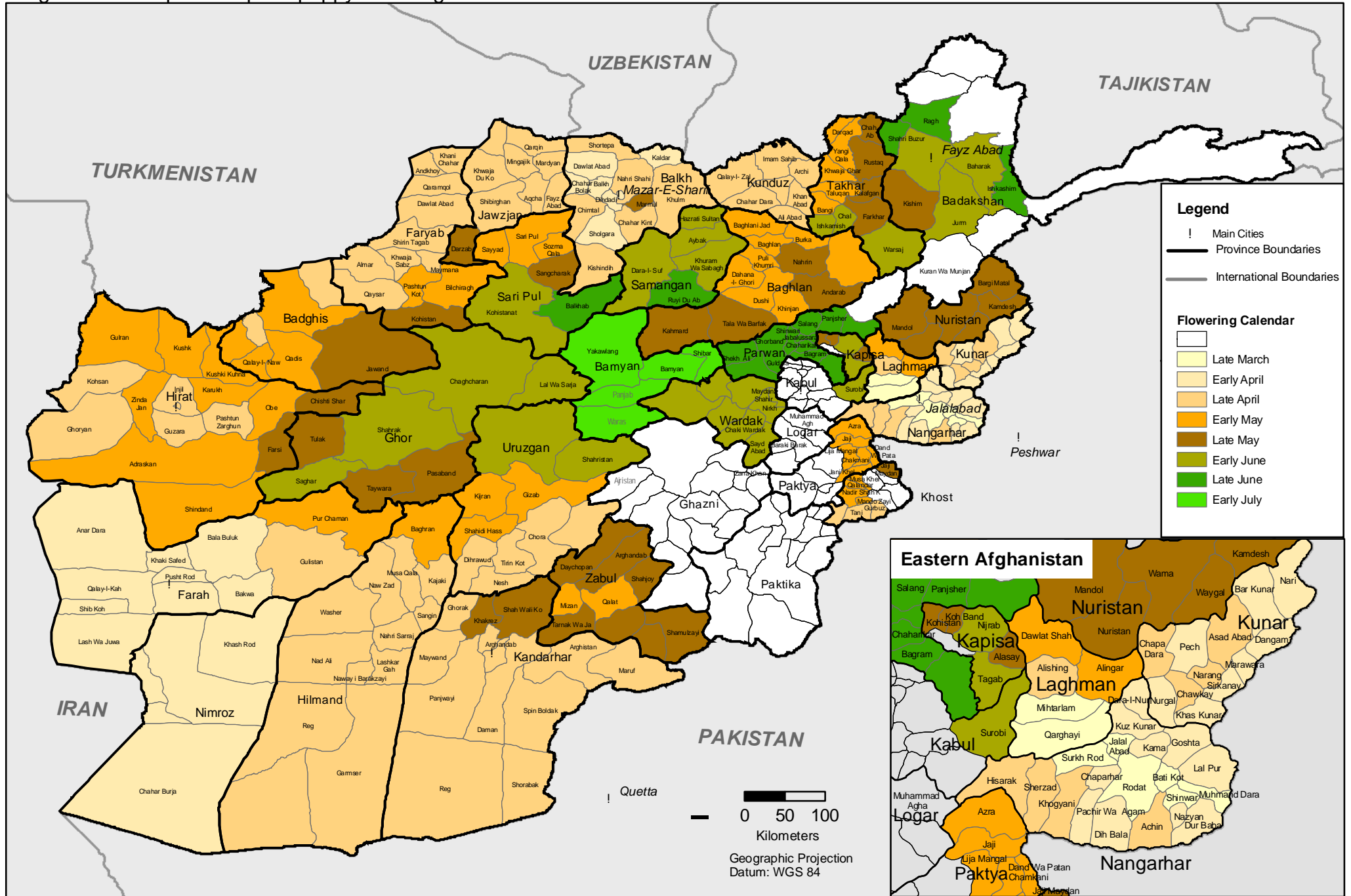
Afghanistan: Opium poppy planting calendar in 2006



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

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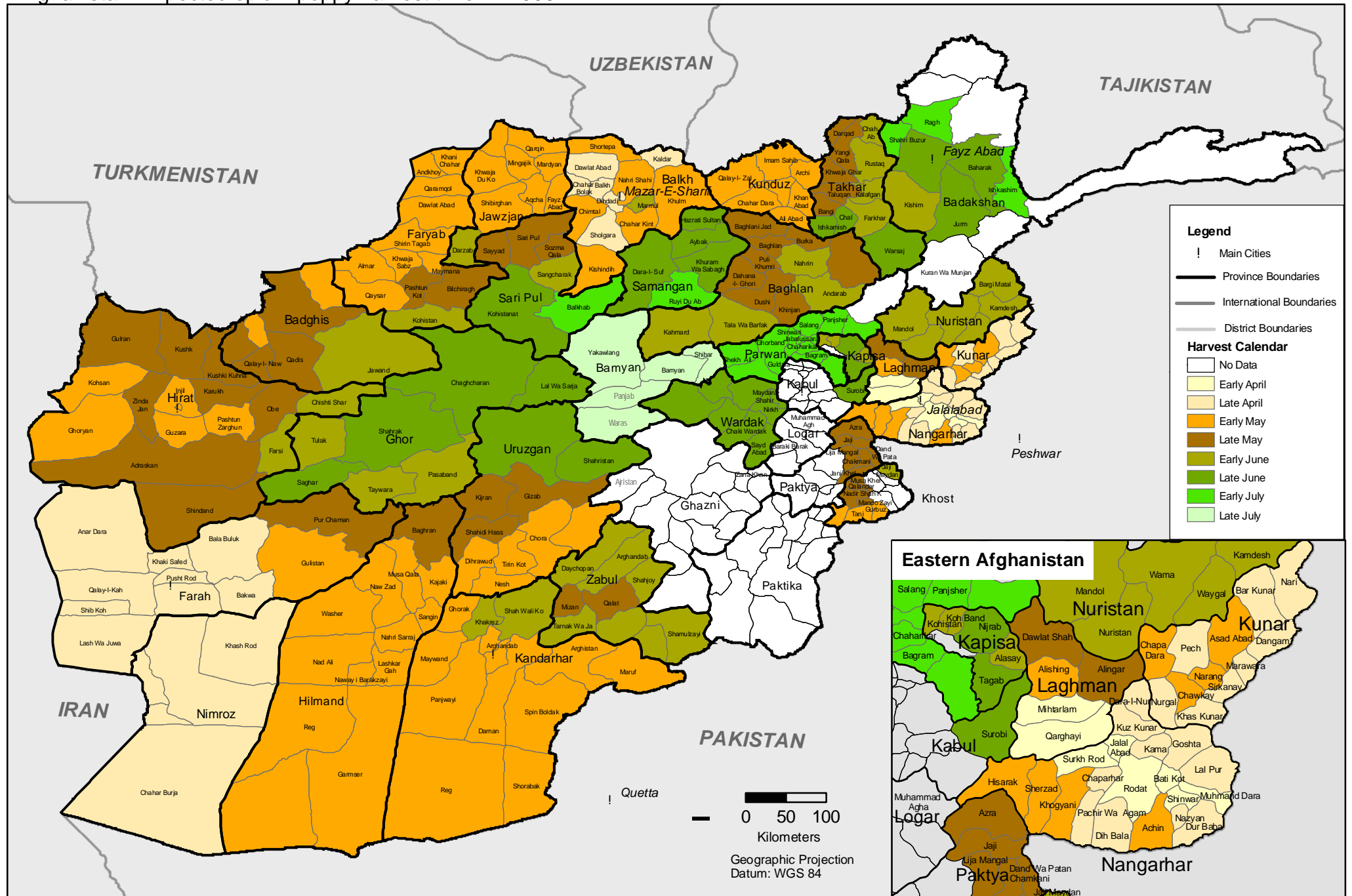
Afghanistan: Expected opium poppy flowering time in 2006



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

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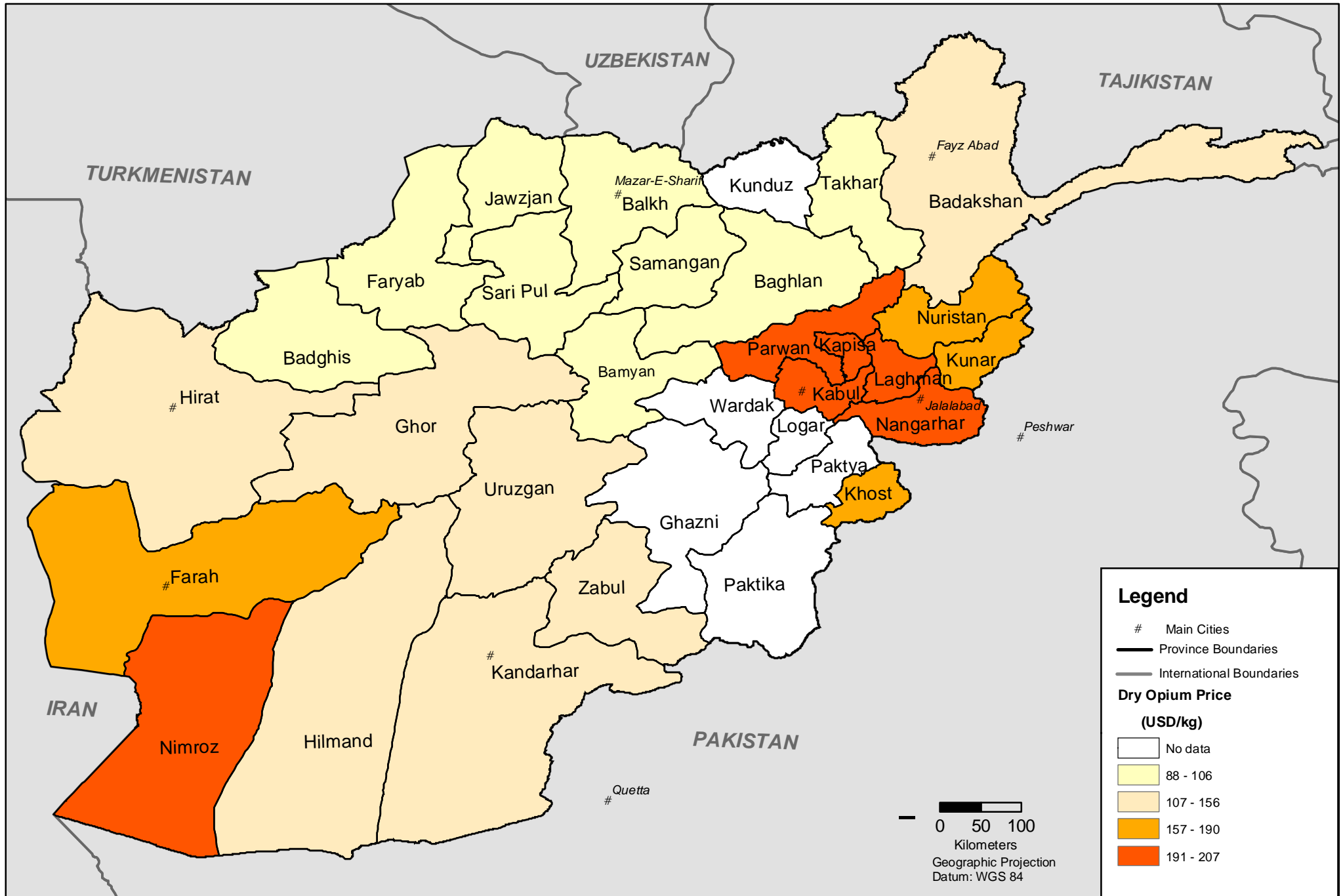
Afghanistan: Expected opium poppy harvest time in 2006



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)

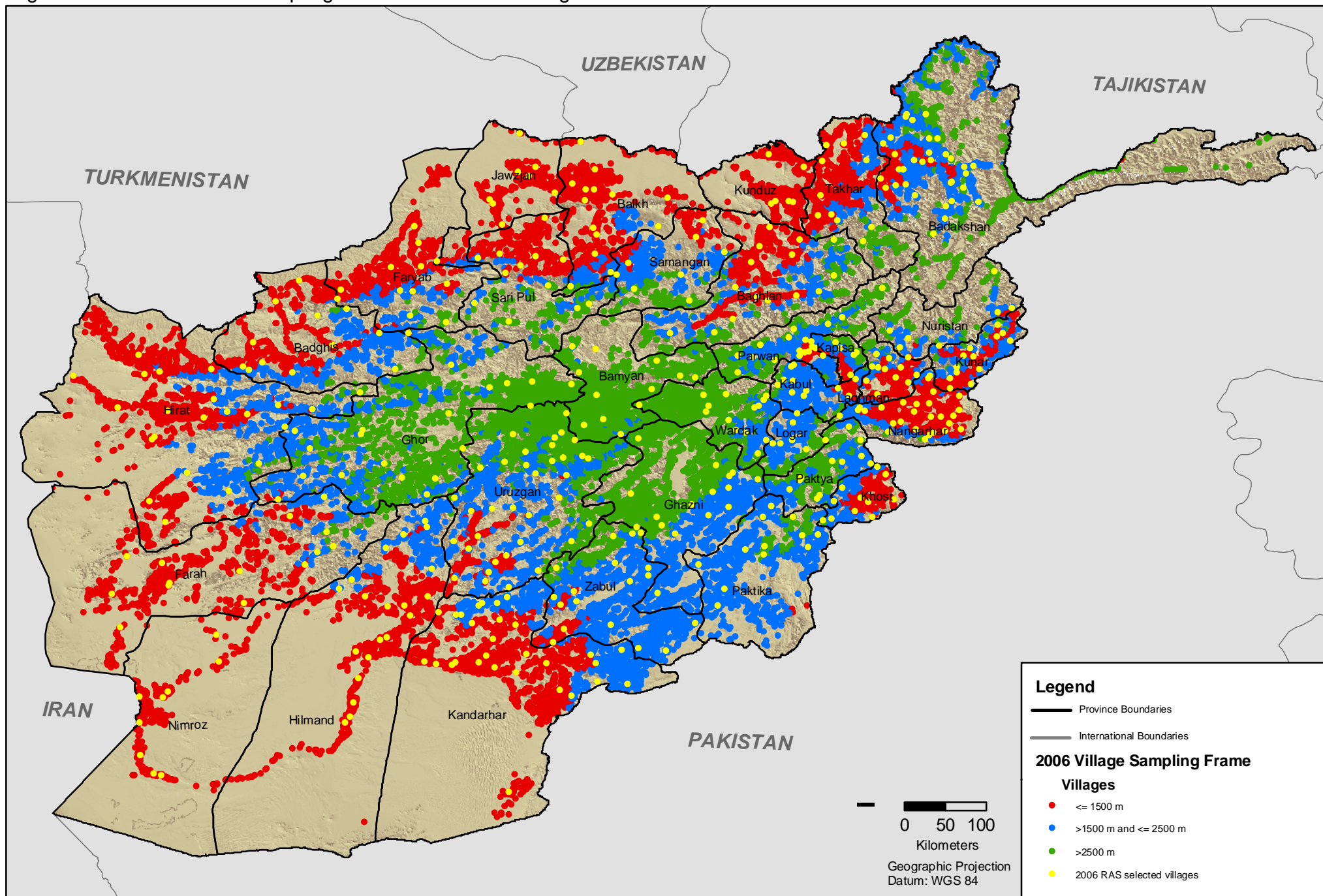
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Afghanistan: Dry opium prices (USD)



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Afghanistan: ORAS 2006 Sampling frame and selected villages



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Rapid Assessment Survey 2006 (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html)
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

NORTH-EASTERN ZONE

BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Interviews with village headmen indicated that cultivation levels in 2006 may increase sharply. In 2005, fear of eradication led to an increase in opium poppy cultivation in rain-fed and remote areas. In 2006, a sharp increase is expected in both rain-fed and irrigated areas. The main opium - growing areas in Badakhshan are the Faizabad, Jurm, Kishm and Baharak districts.

Eradication

Farmers are aware of the threat of eradication and the Government ban and are closely following eradication activities in southern Afghanistan to assess the degree of risk that they may incur by cultivating opium poppy.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	7 369
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Strong increase
Cultivation levels	Very high
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	End of June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	132

The total number of villages in Badakhshan province is 1,822. The ORAS collected information in 34 villages.

TAKHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Respondents reported either no change or a slight increase in opium poppy cultivation in all districts in 2006. Takhar lies on a major trafficking route to Tajikistan (via the Chah Ab, Yangi Qala, Darqad and Rustaq districts).

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 364
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change/slight increase
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Mid-June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	106

The total number of villages in Takhar province is 672. The ORAS collected information in 11 villages.

EASTERN ZONE

NANGARHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

An increase in cultivation was reported in Nangarhar province. Whilst farmers in central Nangarhar follow the eradication campaign and observe the Government ban, farmers in remote districts disregard the ban and are already cultivating opium poppy on a significant scale.

Eradication

No eradication was reported until the end of December 2005.

Opium Poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 093
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Strong increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	No
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	207

The total number of villages in Nangarhar province is 972. The ORAS collected information in 27 villages.

KUNAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Respondents reported the same level of cultivation in 2006 as in 2005. A slight increase is expected in remote areas of the province.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 059
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	175

The total number of villages in Kunar province is 457. The ORAS collected information in 13 villages.

Photo : Opium poppy fields in Kunar (date: 21/12/2005)



LAGHMAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation in Laghman province decreased sharply in 2005 but is expected to increase in 2006, particularly in remote districts such as Alingar and Dawlat Shah.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	274
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	191

The total number of villages in Laghman province is 464. The ORAS collected information in 11 villages.

NURISTAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

A decrease in cultivation is expected in 2006, following a sharp increase in 2005. Nuristan is located high in the mountains, and most planting will begin in mid-March, by which time villagers may have opted to cultivate alternative crops. Opium poppy cultivation may match levels reported in 2005.

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 554
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Decrease
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	190

The total number of villages in Nuristan province is 170. The ORAS collected information in eight villages.

NORTHERN ZONE**BAGHLAN PROVINCE**Cultivation

Cultivation in Baghlan province increased considerably in 2005 (as compared to 2004), and the same level of cultivation as in 2005 is expected in 2006. Opium poppy cultivation is reported in all districts of Baghlan, but particularly in the Andarab and Khost Wa Firing districts. An overall increase is expected.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	2 563
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	End of May to mid-June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	106

The total number of villages in Baghlan province is 902. The ORAS collected information in 15 villages.

BALKH PROVINCECultivation

In 2005, opium poppy cultivation increased sharply in Balkh province with respect to levels in 2004 (by 334 per cent). Like other provinces in northern Afghanistan, Balkh is becoming a major opium poppy-growing province. According to ORAS results, cultivation could remain at the same high levels or decrease slightly in 2006. Mazar-i-Sherif, Chintal, Sholgara and Char Bolak are the main opium poppy-growing districts in this province.

Eradication

Surveyors did not report any eradication at the time of the survey, but at the beginning of January 2005 some eradication activities were reported to the Government by local authorities in Balkh province.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	10 837
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change/slight decrease
Cultivation levels	High
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	End of April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	100

The total number of villages in Balkh province is 772. The ORAS collected information in 14 villages.

Photo : Opium poppy in Balkh province (date: 17/12/2005)



Photo: Greenhouse construction in Balkh (date: 18/12/2005)



BAMYAN PROVINCECultivation

The majority of farmers in Bamyan province prefer not to cultivate opium poppy. No increase in opium poppy cultivation is expected in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	126
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Decrease/no change
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	100

The total number of villages in Bamyan province is 1,543. The ORAS collected information in 12 villages.

FARYAB PROVINCECultivation

Following a reported decrease in 2005, opium poppy cultivation is expected to increase in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	2 665
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	101

The total number of villages in Faryab province is 635. The ORAS collected information in 11 villages.

KUNDUZ PROVINCE

Cultivation

Kunduz province is neither a major nor a traditional opium poppy-growing region. In 2005, only 275 hectares of opium poppy were reported. The same level of cultivation is expected in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	275
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Kunduz province is 377. The ORAS collected information in six villages.

JAWZJAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Jawzjan province was not a significant opium poppy-growing area until 2002. Since 2002, however, opium poppy cultivation has increased sharply. In 2006, a further increase is expected.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 748
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Late May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	156

The total number of villages in Jawzjan province is 256. The ORAS collected information in nine villages.

SAMANGAN PROVINCECultivation

Key respondents reported that they were expecting a decrease in opium poppy cultivation in 2006. Since planting takes place mainly during March, farmers may yet decide to cultivate opium poppy, depending on the success of eradication in the southern provinces or in provinces at low elevations, such as Balkh.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	3 874
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Decrease
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	End of July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	96

The total number of villages in Samangan province is 495. The ORAS collected information in eight villages.

SARI PUL PROVINCECultivation

Opium poppy cultivation is expected to decrease in Sari Pul province in 2006. Since, depending on weather conditions, some farmers prefer to plant opium poppy in March, the situation may still change after that time.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	3 227
Type of cultivation	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Decrease
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	99

The total number of villages in Sari Pul province is 558. The ORAS collected information in 12 villages.

CENTRAL ZONE

GHAZNI PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation has always been negligible in Ghazni province, and that trend is expected to continue in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	9
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Decrease/no change
Cultivation levels	Negligible
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Ghazni province is 2,645. The ORAS collected information in 15 villages.

KHOST PROVINCE

Cultivation

In 2005, opium poppy cultivation was negligible. In 2006, however, an increase is expected.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	169

The total number of villages in Khost province is 519. The ORAS collected information in 10 villages.

LOGAR PROVINCECultivation

The vast majority of villagers in Logar province do not cultivate opium poppy. The same situation is expected in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Negligible
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Spring/autumn
Expected main harvest time	May/June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Logar province is 394. The ORAS collected information in six villages.

PAKTIKA PROVINCECultivation

Opium poppy cultivation in Paktika province has always been negligible, and the same trend is expected in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Paktika province is 553. The ORAS collected information in 12 villages.

PAKTYA PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation in Paktya province has always been negligible, and the same trend is expected in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Paktya province is 707. The ORAS collected information in 12 villages.

PARWAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Opium poppy cultivation was reported for the first time in the province in 2004, and was estimated at 1,310 ha. Cultivation returned to a negligible level in 2005 as a result of the Government ban. The same level is expected in 2006. No opium poppy cultivation was observed in the villages visited.

Eradication

There were no reports of eradication.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Negligible
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	200

The total number of villages in Parwan province is 980. The ORAS collected information in 16 villages.

KAPISA PROVINCE

Cultivation

Kapisa is not a major opium poppy-growing province, and cultivation decreased to 115 ha in 2005. Cultivation is expected to increase in 2006.

Eradication

There were no reports of eradication.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	115
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/early July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	191

The total number of villages in Kapisa province is 307. The ORAS collected information in eight villages.

WARDAK PROVINCE

Cultivation

Trends in opium poppy cultivation are not expected to change in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	Negligible
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Very low
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/early July
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	N/A

The total number of villages in Wardak province is 1347. The ORAS collected information in 14 villages.

SOUTHERN ZONE

KANDAHAR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Following a sharp increase in 2005, no change in cultivation levels is expected in 2006. Following the announcement by the Governor of Kandahar in December 2005 of an eradication campaign, a decrease is expected in the central districts of the province, whilst in remote areas an increase is expected.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	12 990
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	High
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	140

The total number of villages in Kandahar province is 1,854. The ORAS collected information in 29 villages.

Photo: Opium poppy field in Kandahar (date: 02/02/2006)



HELMAND PROVINCE

Cultivation

An increase in cultivation is expected in all districts of Helmand in 2006. Helmand province has the highest levels of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, and in 2005 a total of 26,500 ha in the province were under opium poppy cultivation. In remote parts of the province, some groups, such as drug smugglers, are encouraging villagers to cultivate opium poppy. Helmand is also the most significant province in terms of heroin processing and trafficking.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	26 500
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Strong increase
Cultivation levels	High
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Poor, particularly in northern Helmand
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	141

The total number of villages in Helmand province is 1,126. The ORAS collected information in 20 villages.

Photo: Opium poppy field in Helmand (date: 24/01/2006)



Photo: Wheat field in Helmand (date: 24/01/2006)



URUZGAN PROVINCE

Cultivation

Uruzgan is one of the major and traditional opium poppy-growing provinces of Afghanistan. In 2005, a sharp decrease in cultivation was reported, but in 2006 most villagers have decided to grow opium poppy. A large increase is therefore expected.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	4 605
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Strong increase
Cultivation levels	High
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Poor in northern Uruzgan; good in southern Uruzgan
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	135

The total number of villages in Uruzgan province is 2,492. The ORAS collected information in 34 villages.

ZABUL PROVINCECultivation

Respondents predict a strong increase in cultivation in Zabul province in 2006. Zabul province is one of the poorest regions of Afghanistan, and a high level of migration from the province to other areas of Afghanistan is reported.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	2 053
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Strong increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Very poor
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	146

The total number of villages in Zabul province is 1427. The ORAS collected information in 19 villages.

WESTERN ZONE

HERAT PROVINCE

Cultivation

Until 2003, Herat was not a major opium poppy-growing province. However, cultivation began after 2003, reaching 2,531 ha in 2004. Respondents expect cultivation to increase slightly in 2006, particularly in the Shindad district.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 924
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Low
Eradication reported	Limited
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/late June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	156

The total number of villages in Herat province is 1,435. The ORAS collected information in 22 villages.

FARAH PROVINCE

Cultivation

In 2005, cultivation increased by 348 per cent to 10,240 ha compared to 2004. Respondents expected that cultivation levels would remain the same in 2006. Opium poppy cultivation was reported in most districts during the survey.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	10 240
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	High
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Early May
Security situation	Poor
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	177

The total number of villages in Farah province is 820. The ORAS collected information in 14 villages.

NIMROZ PROVINCE

Cultivation

The year 2005 marked a record increase in cultivation from 115 ha to 1,690 ha (1,370 per cent). The same level of cultivation is expected in 2006. Nimroz lies at the country's borders with Iran and Pakistan, and is therefore one of the major trafficking provinces for the export of Afghan opium.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	1 690
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	No change
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	205

The total number of villages in Nimroz province is 427. The ORAS collected information in nine villages.

GHOR PROVINCE

Cultivation

Owing to difficult terrain and harsh conditions, agriculture in Ghor province is limited to very narrow valleys. However, cultivation is expected to increase in 2006. Ghor is one of the main opium-trafficking provinces.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	2 689
Type of cultivation	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	None
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	155

The total number of villages in Ghor province is 1,713. The ORAS collected information in 20 villages.

BADGHIS PROVINCE

Cultivation

Until 2004, opium poppy cultivation was very limited in Badghis province. In 2005, however, it increased by 383 per cent to 2,967 ha. Key respondents predicted a further increase throughout the province in 2006.

Opium poppy cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2005 (hectares)	2 967
Type of cultivation	Irrigated/rain-fed
Projected trends in 2005-2006	Increase
Cultivation levels	Moderate
Eradication reported	Very limited
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Mid-June
Security situation	Good
Dry opium price (US\$/kg)	99

The total number of villages in Badghis province is 639. The ORAS collected information in 12 villages.

ANNEX 1

Cultivation levels in 2004 and 2005 and expected trends in 2006

PROVINCE	2004	2005	Change in 2004-2005 (ha)	Change in 2004-2005 as percentage	Cultivation trends in 2006 as compared to 2005
Badakhshan	15,607	7,370	-8237	-53%	Strong Increase
Badghis	614	2,967	2353	383%	Increase
Baghlan	2,444	2,563	119	5%	No Change
Balkh	2,495	10,837	8342	334%	No Change
Bamyan	803	126	-677	-84%	No Change
Farah	2,288	10,240	7952	348%	No Change
Faryab	3,249	2,665	-584	-18%	Increase
Ghazni	62	-	-62	-100%	No Change
Ghor	4,983	2,689	-2294	-46%	Strong Increase
Helmand	29,353	26,500	-2853	-10%	Strong Increase
Herat	2,531	1,924	-607	-24%	Increase
Jawzjan	1,673	1,748	75	4%	Increase
Kabul	282	-	-282	-100%	No Change
Kandahar	4,959	12,989	8030	162%	No Change
Kapisa	522	115	-407	-78%	Increase
Khost	838	-	-838	-100%	Increase
Kunar	4,366	1,059	-3307	-76%	No Change
Kunduz	224	275	51	23%	No Change
Laghman	2,756	274	-2482	-90%	Strong Increase
Logar	24	-	-24	-100%	No Change
Nangarhar	28,840	1,093	-27747	-96%	Strong Increase
Nimroz	115	1,690	1575	1370%	No Change
Nuristan	764	1,554	790	103%	Decrease
Paktika	-	-	0	0%	No Change
Paktya	1,200	-	-1200	-100%	No Change
Parwan	1,310	-	-1310	-100%	No Change
Samangan	1,151	3,874	2723	237%	Decrease
Sari Pul	1,974	3,227	1253	63%	Decrease
Takhar	762	1,364	602	79%	No Change
Uruzgan	11,080	4,605	-6475	-58%	Strong Increase
Wardak	1,017	106	-911	-90%	No Change
Zabul	2,977	2,053	-924	-31%	Strong Increase
Total	131,263	103,907	-27356	-21%	Overall Increase