

3.1 Production

3.1.1 Afghanistan

Fact Sheet - Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006¹

	2005	Variation on 2005	2006
Net opium poppy cultivation	104,000 ha	+59%	165,000 ha
In per cent of agricultural land	2.30%		3.65%
In per cent of global cultivation	62%		82%
Number of provinces affected (total: 34)	26		28
Eradication	5,000 ha	+210%	15,300 ha
Weighted average opium yield	39.3 kg/ha	-6%	37.0 kg/ha
Potential production of opium	4,100 mt	+49%	6,100 mt
In per cent of global production	87%		92%
Number of households involved in opium cultivation	309,000	+45%	448,000
Number of persons involved in opium cultivation	2.0 million		2.9 million
In per cent of total population (23 million)	8.7%		12.6%
Average farm-gate price of dry opium at harvest time	US\$ 138/kg	-9%	US\$ 125/kg
Afghanistan GDP ²	US\$ 5.2 billion	+29%	US\$ 6.7 billion
Total farm-gate value of opium production	US\$ 0.56 billion	+36%	US\$ 0.76 billion
in per cent of GDP	11%		11%
Total export value of opium to neighbouring countries	US\$ 2.7 billion	+15%	US\$ 3.1 billion
In per cent of GDP	52%		46%
Gross trafficking profits to Afghan traffickers	US\$ 2.14 billion	+9%	US\$ 2.34 billion
Household average yearly gross income from opium of opium growing families	US\$ 1,800	-5%	US\$ 1,700
Per capita gross income of opium growing farmers	US\$ 280	-7%	US\$ 260
Afghanistan's GDP per capita	US\$ 226	+28%	US\$ 290
Indicative gross income from opium per ha	US\$ 5,400	-15%	US\$ 4,600
Indicative gross income from wheat per ha	US\$ 550	-4%	US\$ 530

Cultivation and eradication

The area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by 59 per cent from 104,000 hectares in 2005 to 165,000 hectares in 2006. This is the largest area under opium poppy cultivation ever found in Afghanistan. As a result of this upsurge, the share of

Afghanistan in global opium poppy cultivation increased from 65 per cent in 2005 to 82 per cent in 2006. Most of the opium poppy cultivation took place in the southern region of Afghanistan, which accounted for 62 per cent of the total cultivation. Only six out of

¹ The information in this section comes from the report on the Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006 (UNODC/Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Afghanistan, October 2006), and can also be found on the internet (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crop_monitoring.html).

² Source : Afghan Government, Central Statistics Office, preliminary estimate.

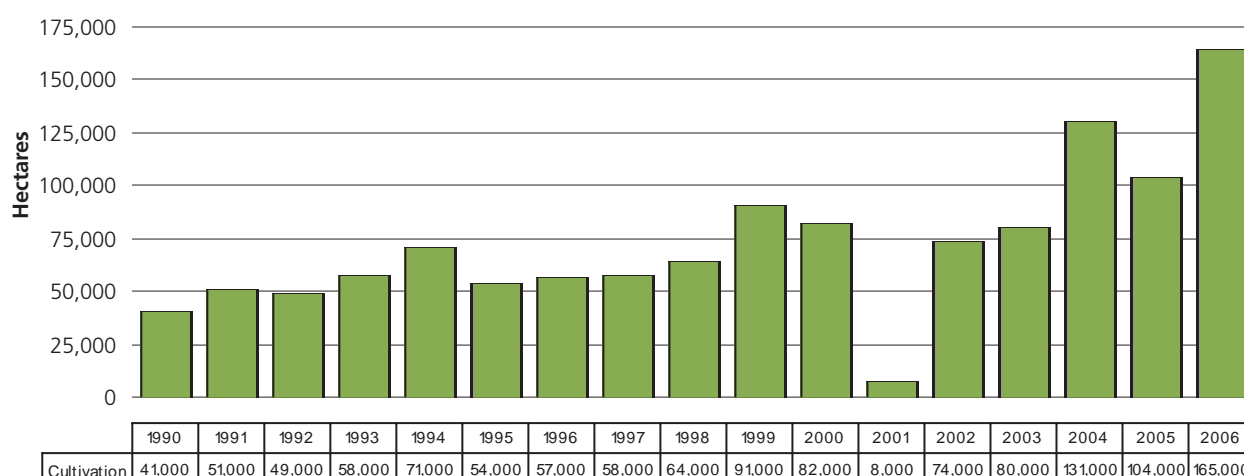
Afghanistan's 34 provinces were free of opium poppy cultivation in 2006. In the 12 years since the start of the UNODC opium surveys in 1994, opium cultivation increased in eight years, and decreased in only four.

UNODC does not conduct a cannabis cultivation survey in Afghanistan. However, based on observations made during the annual opium survey, the area under cannabis cultivation in 2005/2006 was estimated at about 50,000

hectares compared to 30,000 hectares in 2004.

In 2006, a total of 15,300 hectares of opium poppy fields were eradicated by Afghan authorities. This is roughly 8 per cent of the area under opium poppy cultivation, up from 5 per cent in 2005. Overall, two thirds of cultivated opium poppy in each village was left standing after the eradication teams had carried out their activities.

Afghanistan, opium poppy cultivation (hectares), 1990 to 2006



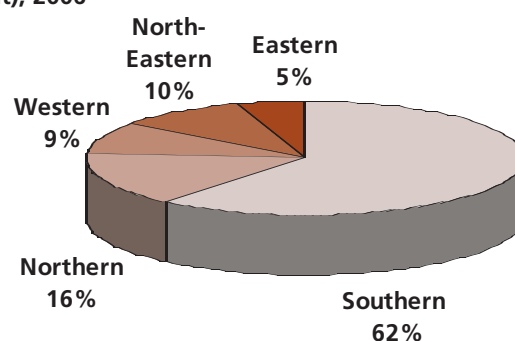
Afghanistan, regional distribution of opium poppy cultivation (ha), 2005 to 2006

Region	2005 (ha)	2006 (ha)	Change 2005-2006	2006 as % of total
Southern	46,147	101,900	+121%	62%
Northern	28,282	22,574	-20%	14%
Western	16,543	16,615	0%	10%
North-Eastern	8,734	15,234	+74%	9%
Eastern	4,095	8,312	+103%	5%
Central	106	337	+218%	0%
Rounded Total	104,000	165,000	+59%	100%

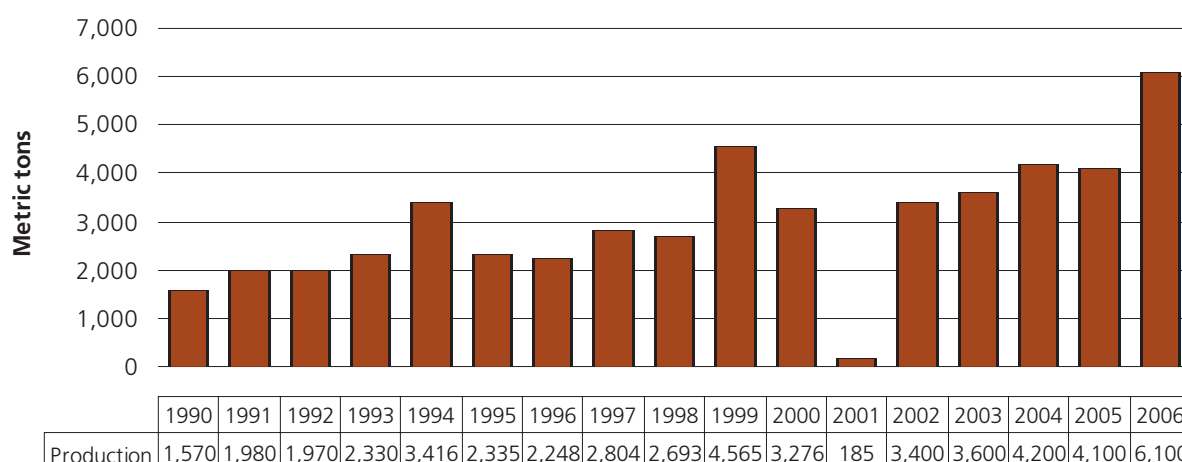
Production

In 2006, the average opium yield per hectare was slightly lower than in 2005. The increase in potential opium production by 49 per cent was therefore less pronounced than the increase for cultivation. In 2006, 6,100 metric tons of opium were produced, out of which 62 per cent were produced in the southern region of the country. Opium production in Afghanistan accounted for 92 per cent of the global opium production.

Afghanistan, potential opium production by region (mt), 2006



Afghanistan, potential opium production (metric tons), 1990 to 2006

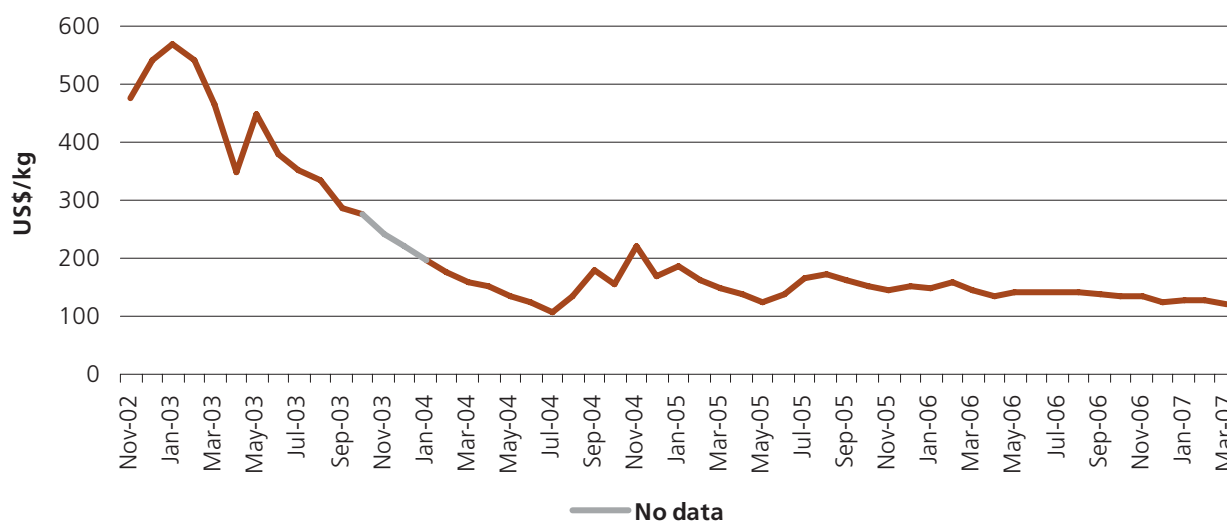


Prices

Despite the strong increase in production, farm gate prices at harvest time in 2006 were only slightly lower than in 2005. On average, farmers fetched US\$ 94/kg for fresh opium and US\$ 138/kg for dry opium. During 2006, trader prices for dry opium were relatively stable.

The strong regional price differences observed at the beginning of 2006, with low prices in the northern and southern regions and high prices in the eastern region, became less pronounced towards the end of the year. The overall trend was downward.

Afghanistan, farm-gate prices for dry opium (US\$/kg), 2002 to 2007



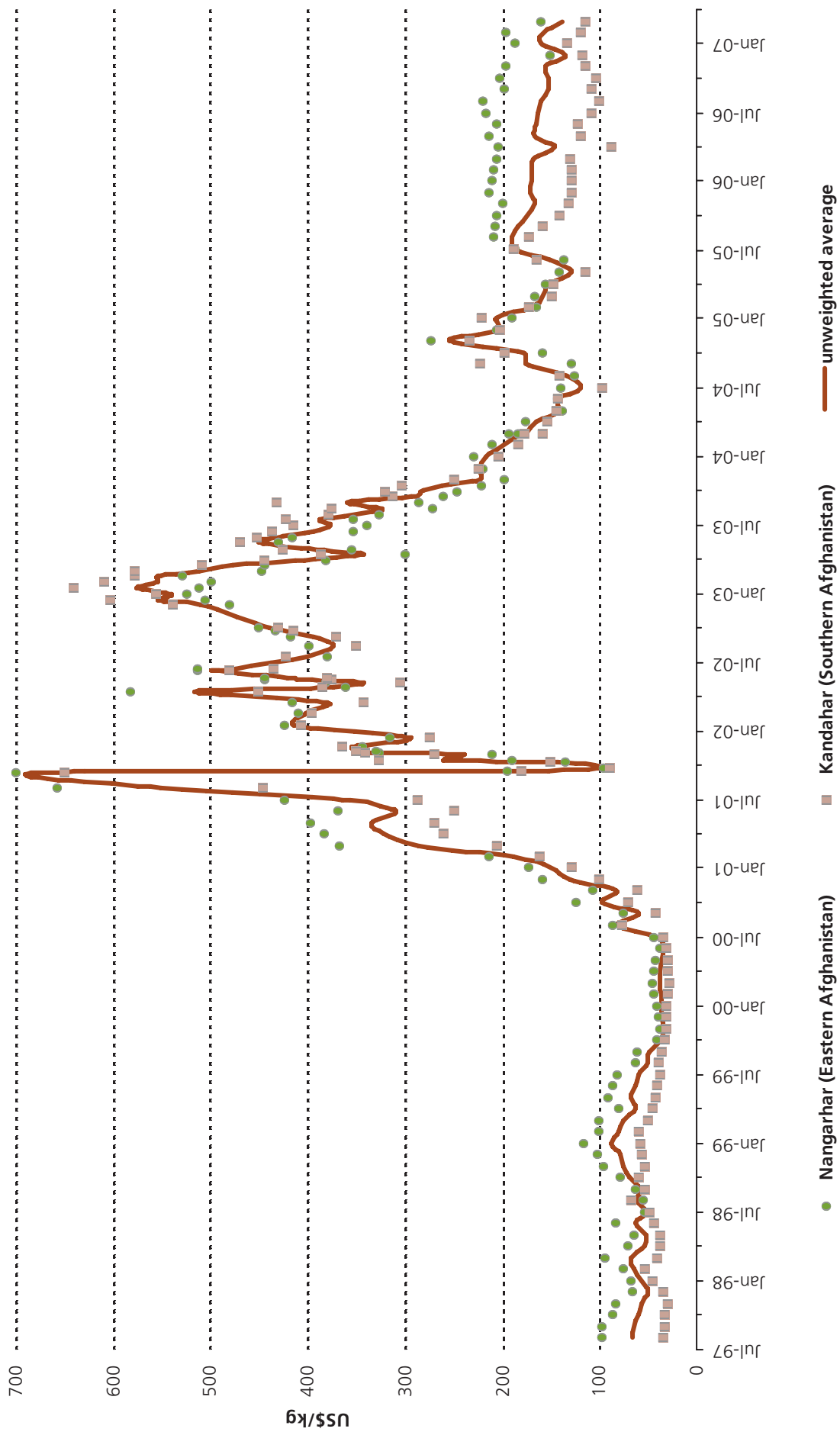
Farm gate value

The farm gate value of the opium harvest amounted to US\$ 0.76 billion, or 11 per cent of licit GDP, in 2006. The total potential value of Afghanistan's 2006 opium harvest accruing to farmers, laboratory owners and Afghan traffickers reached about US\$ 3.1 billion. This is almost half the size of the country's licit GDP of US\$ 6.7 billion, or 32 per cent of the overall economy (including the opium sector).

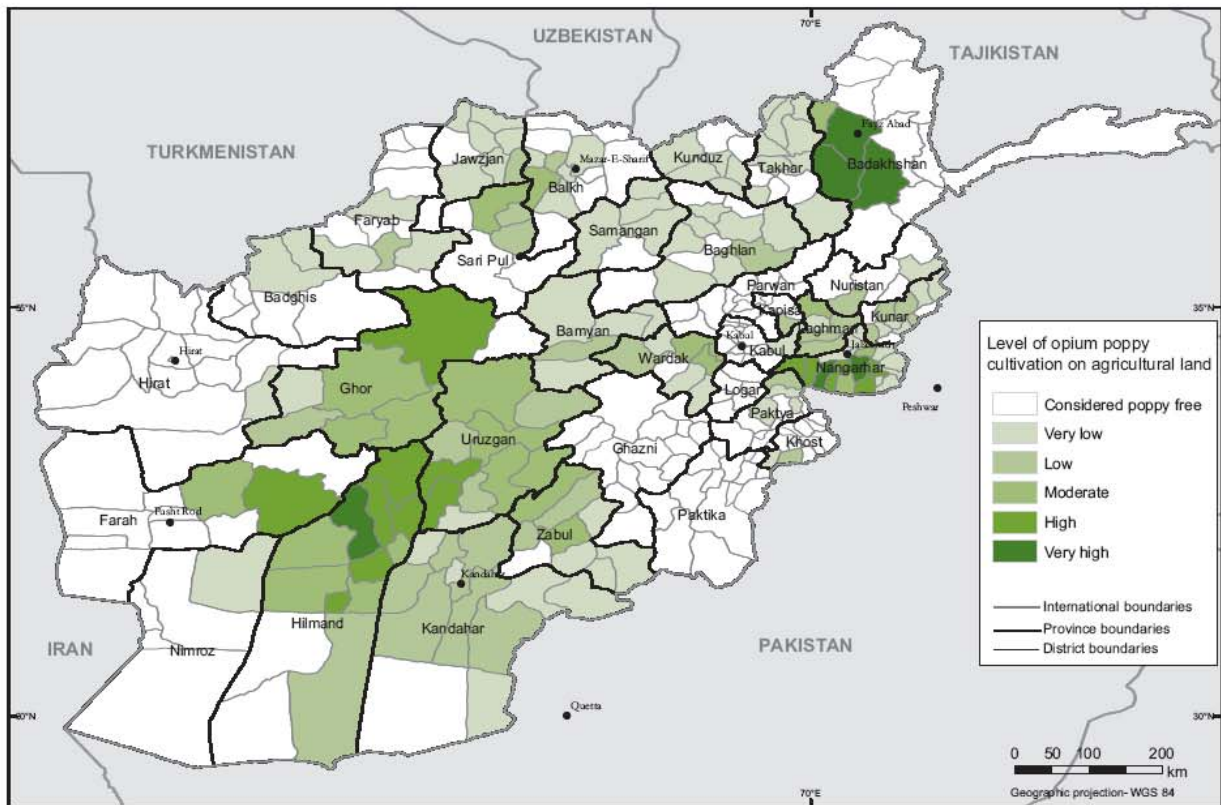
Households involved

An estimated 448,000 households, or 2.9 million persons, were involved in opium poppy cultivation in 2006. This is equivalent to 12.6 per cent of Afghanistan's total population of 23 million.

Afghanistan, prices of dry opium in Nangarhar and Kandahar collected from traders (US\$/kg), August 1997 - March 2007

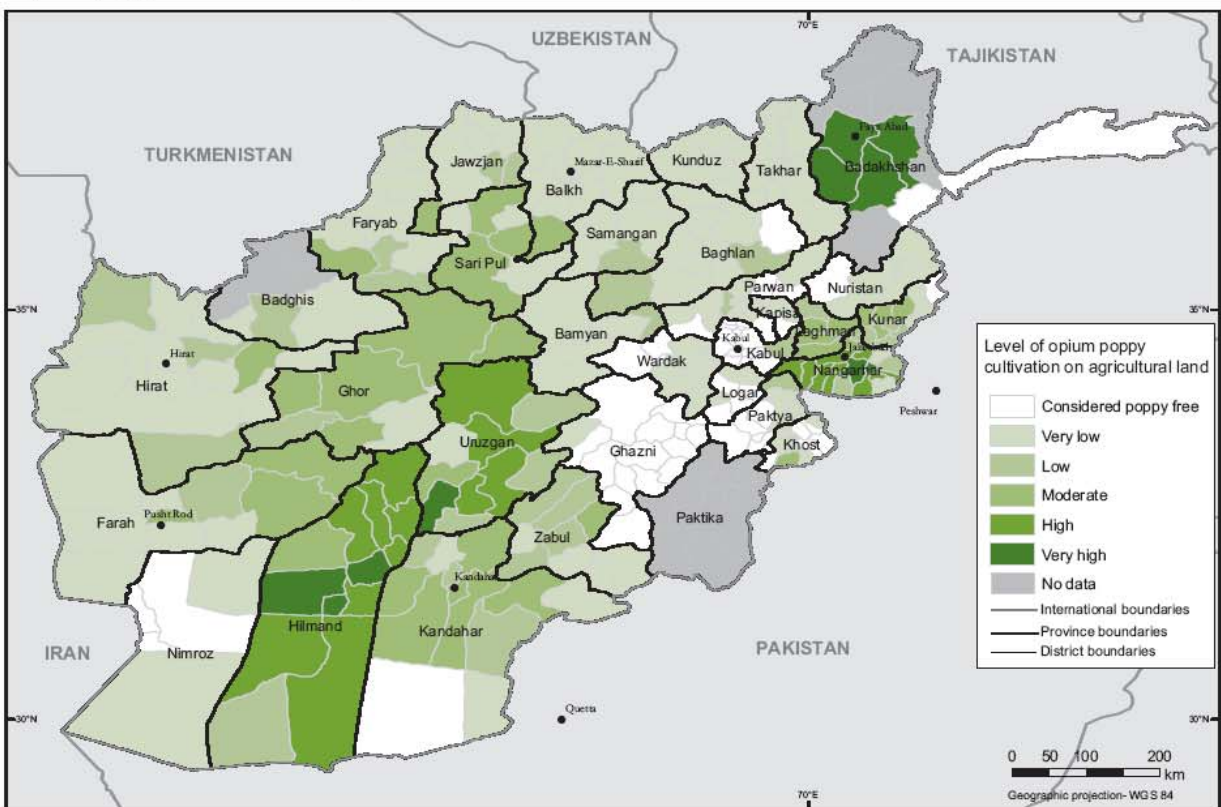


Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2003 (at district level)



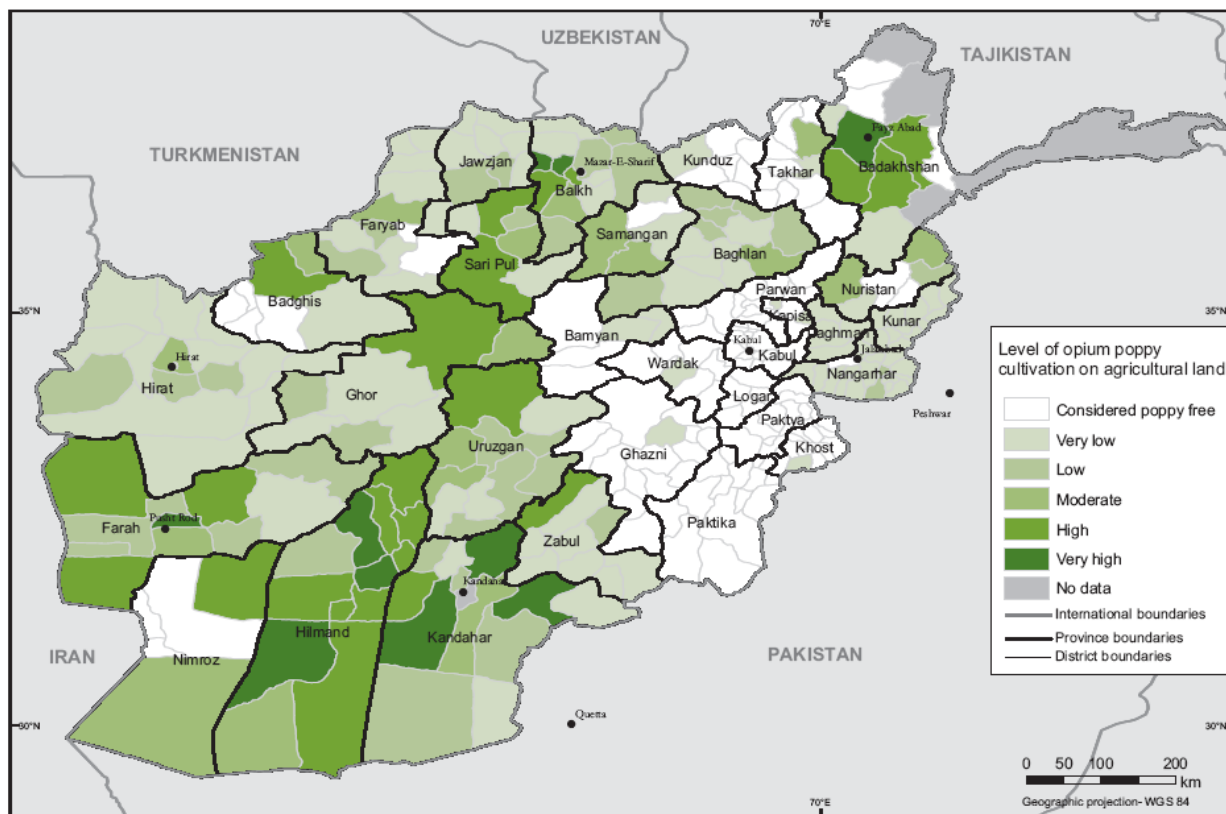
Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Opium Survey 2003
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2004 (at district level)



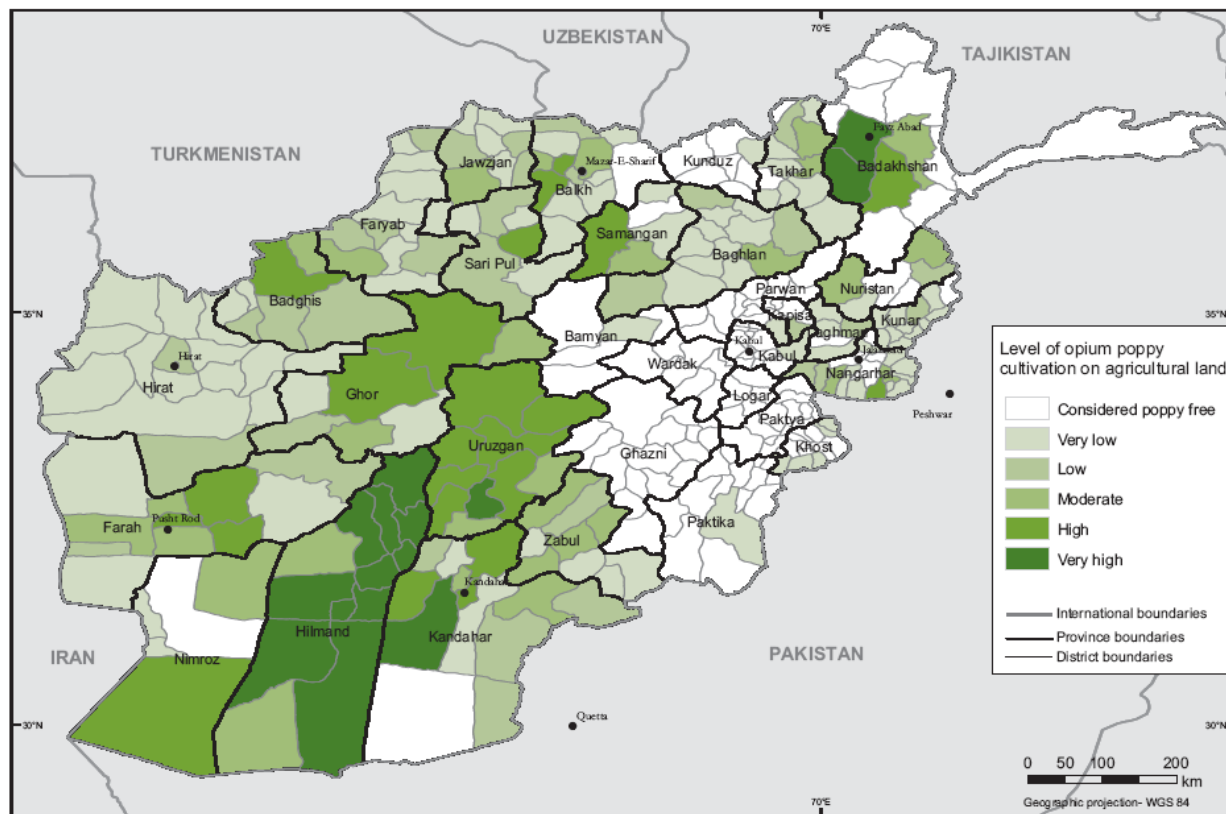
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Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2005 (at district level)



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Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, 2006 (at district level)



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