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Government of Afghanistan
Ministry of Counter Narcotics



Afghanistan

Opium Survey 2011

**Winter Rapid Assessment
for the Central, Eastern,
Southern and Western Regions**

January 2011

ABBREVIATIONS

AGE	Anti Government Elements
GPS	Global Positioning System
ICMP	Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (UNODC)
ORAS	Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey
MCN	Ministry of Counter-Narcotics
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 GENERAL FINDINGS.....	2
1.1. DRIVING FORCES BEHIND OPIUM CULTIVATION TRENDS	7
1.2. CASH ADVANCES RECEIVED FOR OPIUM CULTIVATION	9
1.3. AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE	9
1.4. FIELD SECURITY DURING ORAS IMPLEMENTATION	9
1.5. AWARENESS AND ERADICATION EXPERIENCE	10
1.6. PRICES	10
2 FINDINGS BY PROVINCE	15
2.1 EASTERN REGION	15
<i>NANGARHAR PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>KUNAR PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>LAGHMAN PROVINCE</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>NURISTAN PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>KAPISA PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>16</i>
2.2 CENTRAL REGION.....	16
<i>GHAZNI PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>KHOST PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>LOGAR PROVINCE</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>PAKTIKA PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>PAKTYA PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>PARWAN PROVINCE</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>PANJSHIR PROVINCE</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>WARDAK PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>KABUL PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>19</i>
2.3 SOUTHERN REGION.....	19
<i>KANDAHAR PROVINCE</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>HILMAND PROVINCE</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>URUZGAN PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>ZABUL PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>DAY KUNDI PROVINCE</i>	<i>20</i>
2.4 WESTERN REGION	21
<i>HIRAT PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>FARAH PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>NIMROZ PROVINCE</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>GHOR PROVINCE.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>BADGHIS PROVINCE</i>	<i>22</i>
3 METHODOLOGY.....	24

Maps

Map 1 Expected opium cultivation trends in 2011 (by province)..... 3

Map 2: Expected opium cultivation level in 2011 (by province)..... 4

Map 3 Regional grouping of provinces for opium surveys in Afghanistan 5

Map 4 Dry opium prices December 2010 (US\$/kg) 14

Map 5 Sampling frame and selected villages for the Winter Assessment 2011 (Phase 1) 23

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2011, the Opium Winter Assessment has been divided into two phases. The first phase was carried out in December 2010 and January 2011 and covered the Central, Eastern, Southern and Western region, where opium is sown in fall 2010. A second phase will take place in February-March 2011 and will cover the Northern and Northeastern region, where opium poppy is in spring. This report presents the findings of the first phase, which covers the main poppy cultivation provinces in the Southern and Western region.

Based on a qualitative assessment of cultivation trends, the winter assessment in the south, west, central and east of Afghanistan predicts an overall slight decrease in opium cultivation for 2011 in this region. This follows a stable opium cultivation estimated in 2010 for the whole country, halting a declining trend in cultivation observed since 2007.

The result of this assessment indicates that the current high price of opium did not produce an increase in opium cultivation in the highest cultivating provinces of Hilmand and Kandahar. In these two provinces the cultivation is expected to decrease in 2011. The reasons for this development were multiple and differed from area to area. In parts of Hilmand and Kandahar, farmers reported the persistence of cold and dry climate conditions which led to crop failure as the poppy would not germinate. There also been a changing political environment in Hilmand with the Governor taking initiatives to convince elders and farmers to reduce the amount of poppy planted. This was not systematically captured by the survey, but it may have played a role as well. In both provinces, military operations were conducted by Afghan and international forces around the time of poppy planting in main poppy cultivating areas. Although these operations were not directed against poppy farmers, the coincidence of troupes being present at planting time may also have discouraged farmers from planting poppy.

In the western provinces namely Farah, Hirat Ghor and Nimroz, poppy cultivation is expected to increase. Similar increasing trends were observed in the eastern and central provinces namely Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Kabul and Kapisa. However, these provinces would remain at lower level of cultivation as compared to Hilmand and Kandahar and their increase is not expected to offset the decrease in these two provinces. The increase in poppy cultivation in Ghor and Kapisa provinces may lead to the loss of their poppy-free status if poppy eradication is not implemented in time. The remaining provinces in the central and eastern regions, which were poppy-free in 2010, are expected to remain poppy-free.

Confirming the findings of the 2010 Afghanistan Opium Survey, the Winter Assessment indicated the strong association between insecurity, lack of agricultural assistance and opium cultivation. Villages with a low level of security and which had not received agricultural assistance in the previous year were significantly more likely to grow poppy in 2011 than villages with good security and those, which had received assistance. Similarly, villages which had been targeted by an anti-poppy awareness campaign were significantly less likely to grow poppy in 2011.

The findings of the Winter Assessment in the Southern region are encouraging. A combination of events seemed to have contributed to this development: dry weather, efforts directed against poppy cultivation and towards increasing government control as well as licit alternatives to poppy. It is premature to determine which of these factors had the bigger impact. But there also worrying signals which need to be carefully monitored: the possible return of Ghor and Kapisa provinces to poppy cultivation and the increasing cultivation trends in the Western and Eastern regions, especially in Nangarhar, which, in the past, has shown its potential to be a major poppy cultivating province.

1 GENERAL FINDINGS

This year the Winter Assessment has been carried out in two phases. In the first phase, the southern, western, central and the eastern regions have been surveyed in January; the Northern and the North-eastern regions will be covered later since the sowing starts later in this region. This was done to facilitate an early assessment of the major opium cultivating provinces.

The Opium Winter Rapid Assessment (phase 1) anticipates an overall slight decrease in opium cultivation in the surveyed regions in 2011.¹ This would follow the stable opium poppy cultivation level observed in 2010.

The results of the qualitative assessment province by province are the following:

- Six provinces, Farah, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman Nangarhar and Nimroz are likely to show a moderate increase in opium cultivation. Kabul, Kunar and Laghman provinces could be poppy-free if effective eradication is implemented.
- Nine provinces, Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Paktya, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak and Nuristan, which were poppy-free in 2010, are likely to remain poppy-free in 2011.
- A moderate decrease in opium cultivation is expected in Day Kundi and Kandahar provinces.
- The opium cultivation is expected to remain stable in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.
- A slight decrease in opium cultivation is expected in Hilmand province.
- Strong increase in opium cultivation is expected in Ghor, Hirat and Kapisa provinces. Kapisa and Ghor which were poppy-free in 2010, may not be poppy-free in 2011.

Overall, the cultivation of opium in the survey area is likely to decrease slightly in 2011 but the number of poppy-cultivating provinces may increase. The provinces which are likely to see an increase would remain quite below the cultivation levels of Hilmand and Kandahar where the expected decrease would offset the increase in the other provinces. Only if timely poppy eradication measures are implemented and/or drought-like conditions prevail, a total of 12 provinces, an increase of 3 compared to 2010, could be poppy-free in 2011.

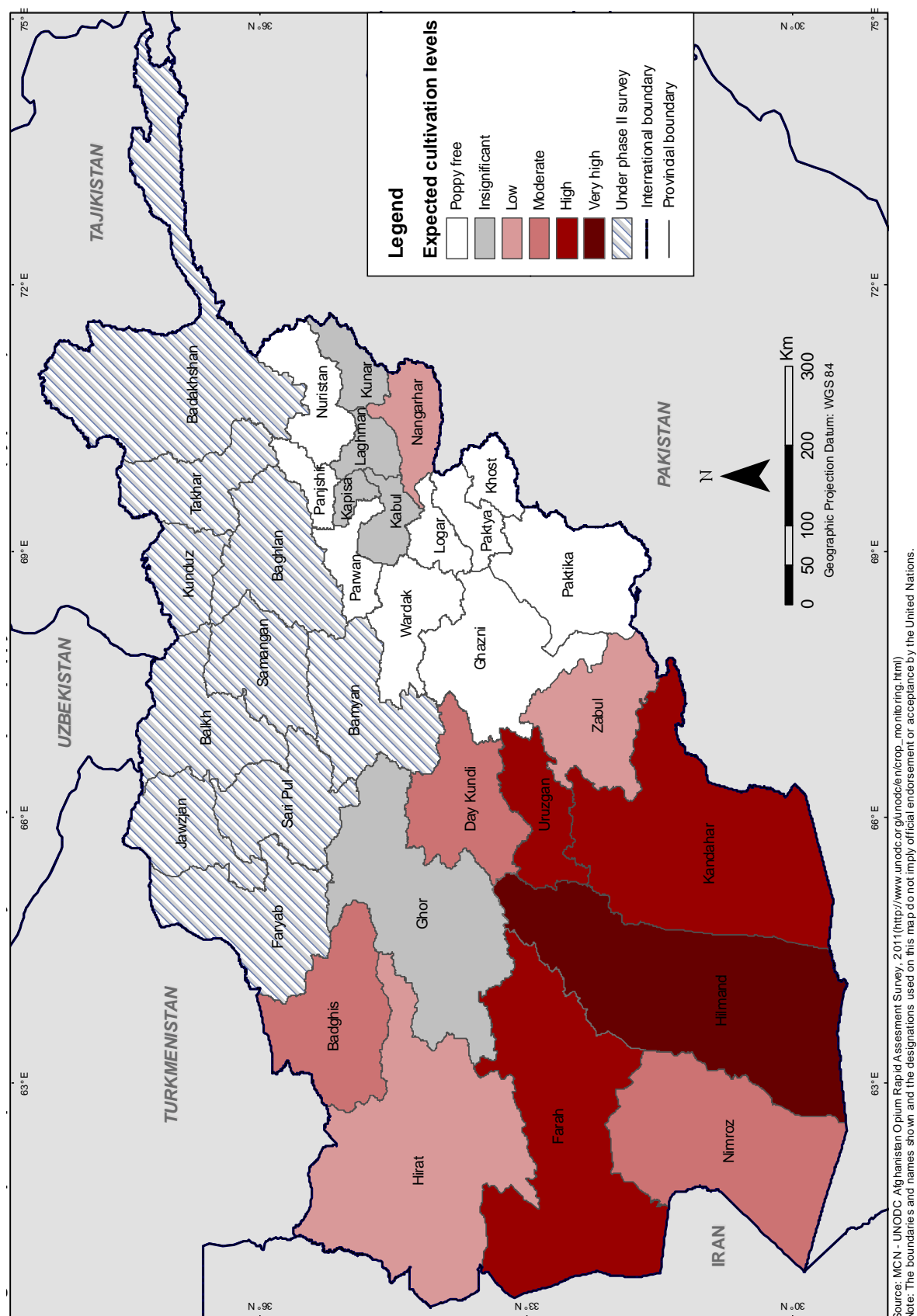
Table 1: Opium cultivation trends at a glance

Cultivation trend in 2011	No. of provinces	Provinces	Comments
Poppy free	9	Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Paktya, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak and Nuristan	These provinces were poppy free in 2010 as well.
Slight decrease	1	Hilmand	Last year the poppy cultivation had slightly decreased compared to 2009
Moderate decrease	2	Day Kundi and Kandahar	Last year the poppy cultivation increased in Kandahar whereas it had decreased in Day Kundi compared to 2009
Stable	2	Uruzgan and Zabul	Last year the poppy cultivation had decreased in both the provinces compared to 2009
Moderate increase	6	Farah, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nimroz	Kabul, Kunar and Laghman could be poppy free if effective eradication is implemented.
Strong increase	3	Ghor, Hirat and Kapisa	Ghor and Kapisa provinces were poppy free in 2010.
Unpredictable	1	Badghis	Poppy cultivation in major rain-fed areas would moderately increase if the drought like conditions do not prevail and there is enough rain.

Note: Provinces of North-eastern and Northern regions would be surveyed in second phase of ORAS

¹ The 2011 Opium Winter Assessment report is based on a relatively small sample of villages and the results are indicative, only.

Map 2: Expected opium cultivation level in 2011 (by province)



Map 3 Regional grouping of provinces for opium surveys in Afghanistan

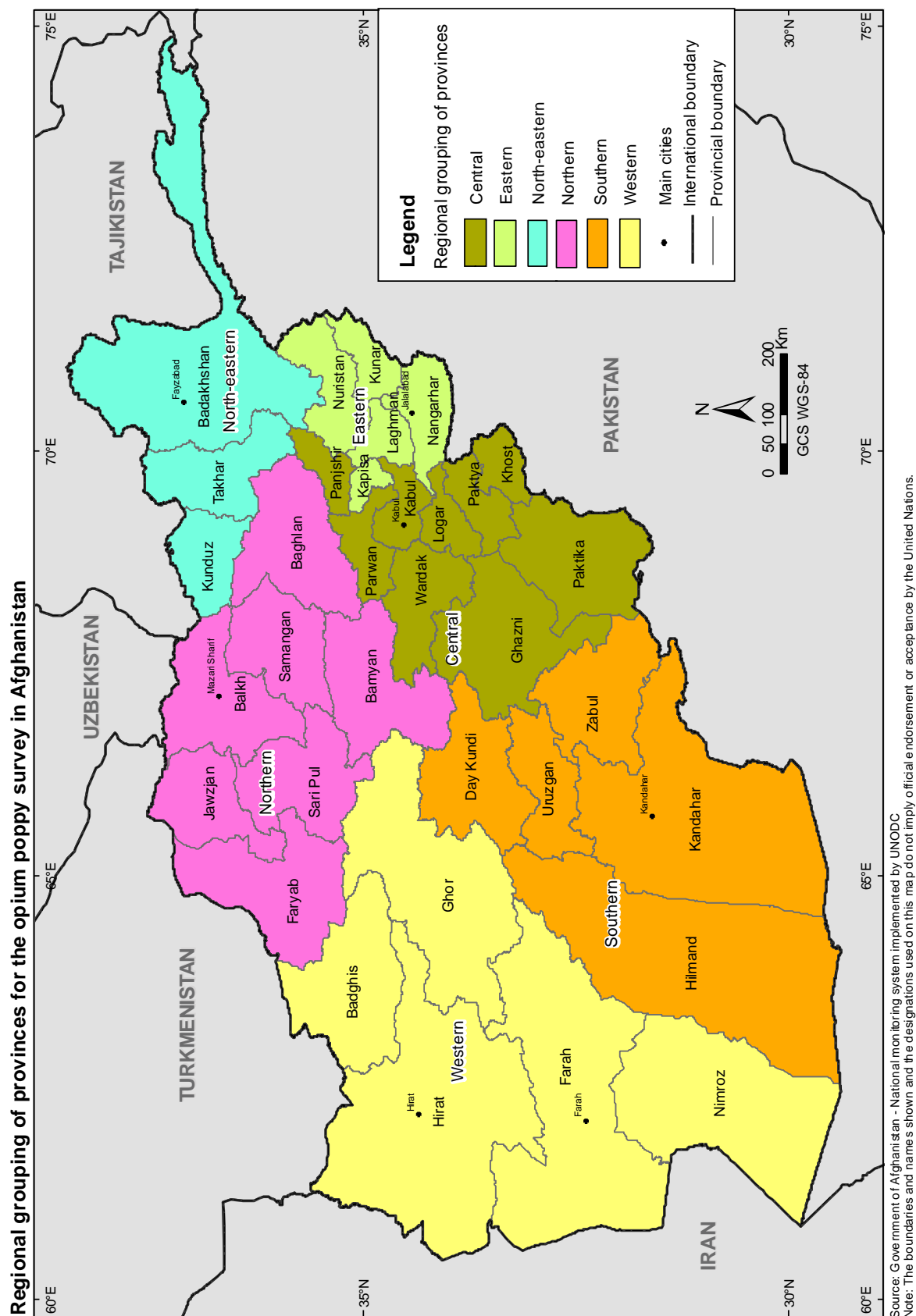


Table 2: Expected opium cultivation trends in 2011 (by province) in the Central, Eastern, Southern and Western region

Region	Province	Cultivation 2010 (ha)	2011Expected opium cultivation change	Expected opium cultivation level
Central	Ghazni	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Kabul	152	Moderate increase	Insignificant
	Khost	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Logar	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Paktika	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Paktya	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Panjshir	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Parwan	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
	Wardak	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
Eastern	Kapisa	Poppy-free	Strong increase (May not remain poppy-free)	Insignificant
	Kunar	154	Moderate increase	Insignificant
	Laghman	234	Moderate increase	Insignificant
	Nangarhar	719	Moderate increase	Low
	Nuristan	Poppy-free	Poppy-free	Poppy-free
Southern	Day kundi	1,547	Moderate decrease	Moderate
	Hilmand	65,045	Slight decrease	Very high
	Kandahar	25,835	Moderate decrease	High
	Uruzgan	7,337	Stable	High
	Zabul	483	Stable	Low
Western	Badghis	2,958	Unpredictable	Moderate
	Farah	14,552	Moderate increase	High
	Ghor	Poppy-free	Strong increase (May not remain poppy-free)	Insignificant
	Hirat	360	Strong increase	Low
	Nimroz	2,039	Moderate increase	Moderate
All surveyed regions (phase 1)		121,415	Slight decrease	
Northern and North-eastern*		1,100	Not yet known	
Total (Rounded)		123,000	Slight decrease**	

* The Northern and North-eastern regions will be surveyed in the second phase of the Winter Assessment.

** Preliminary result. Will be updated based on the results from the Northern and North-eastern region.

Trends by region

The 2011 Winter Assessment highlights the following key cultivation trends as compared to 2010:

- **Southern region:** Poppy cultivation in Hilmand, the main opium cultivating province in the country, is expected to slightly decrease and Kandahar is likely to have a moderate decrease. The Southern region would still remain the largest opium producing region. Hilmand province is expected to retain its status of the largest opium cultivating province despite the decrease.
- **Western region:** The main opium cultivating provinces in this region, Farah and Nimroz are expected to have a moderate increase in opium cultivation while the situation in Badghis province is at this time unpredictable. Opium cultivation in major rain-fed areas in Badghis would moderately increase if the drought like conditions does not prevail and if there is enough rain. A strong increase is expected in opium cultivation in Hirat province. Ghor province is not expected to remain poppy-free in 2011 since there could be a strong increase in opium cultivation which, however, would maintain the cultivation at very low level compared to the main cultivation provinces.
- **Central region:** the cultivation is expected to moderately increase in Kabul province. However, the entire Central region could become poppy-free if opium cultivation in Surobi district of Kabul province could be substantively reduced.
- **Eastern region:** Opium cultivation in Eastern region may moderately increase. The cultivation level in Kunar, Laghman will remain insignificant. Despite the increase expected in Nangarhar, cultivation level in this region is expected to remain contained if compared with the high cultivation levels observed few years ago. Nuristan will probably remain poppy-free in 2011.
- **Northern region and North-eastern region:** These regions will be surveyed in the second phase of the Winter Assessment.

Although there is a moderate to strong increase in the trends of opium cultivation in the western and eastern provinces, the overall cultivation could slightly decrease in the country because of slight and moderate decrease in trends in the provinces with highest cultivation, Hilmand and Kandahar. Farah and Nimroz will probably keep their high levels of cultivation since the assessment indicated increases in poppy the cultivation trends in 2011.

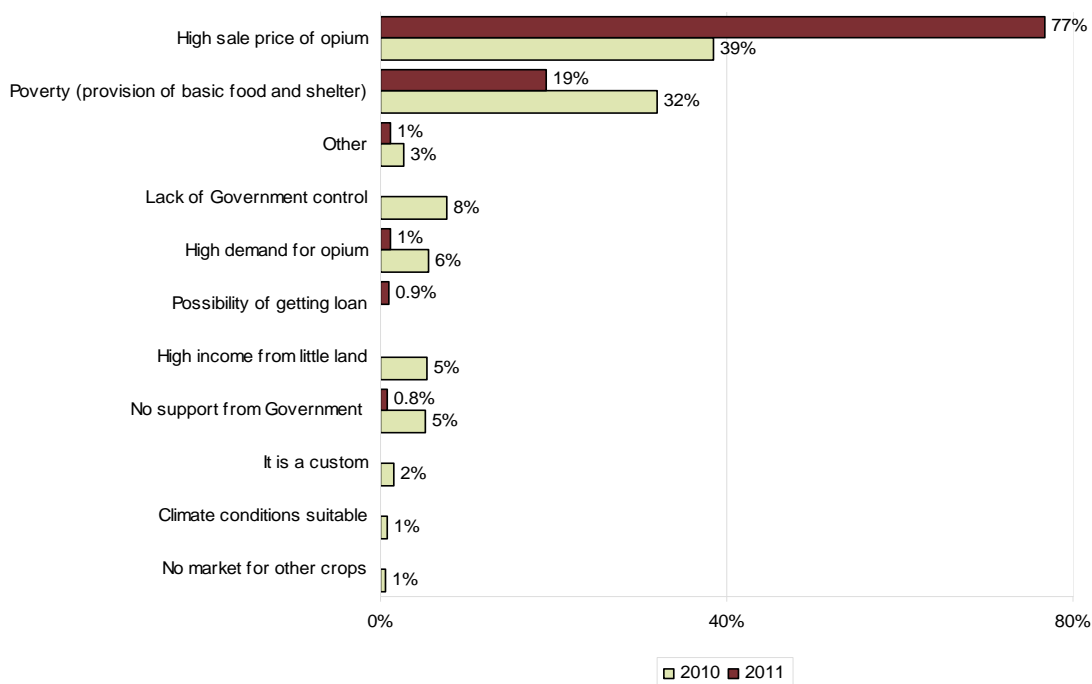
1.1. DRIVING FORCES BEHIND OPIUM CULTIVATION TRENDS

During the 2011 ORAS, 359 village headmen from poppy growing and non-poppy growing villages were asked to state the main reason why the farmers chose to cultivate opium instead of other crops or not cultivate it at all.

Reasons for opium cultivation in 2011

“High sales price of opium” was the predominant reason (77%) for growing opium (39% in 2010). After many years of decreasing trends, the opium price has sharply increased in 2010 making opium more and more attractive to farmers. About 19% of respondents also cited ‘poverty’ as the most dominant reason.

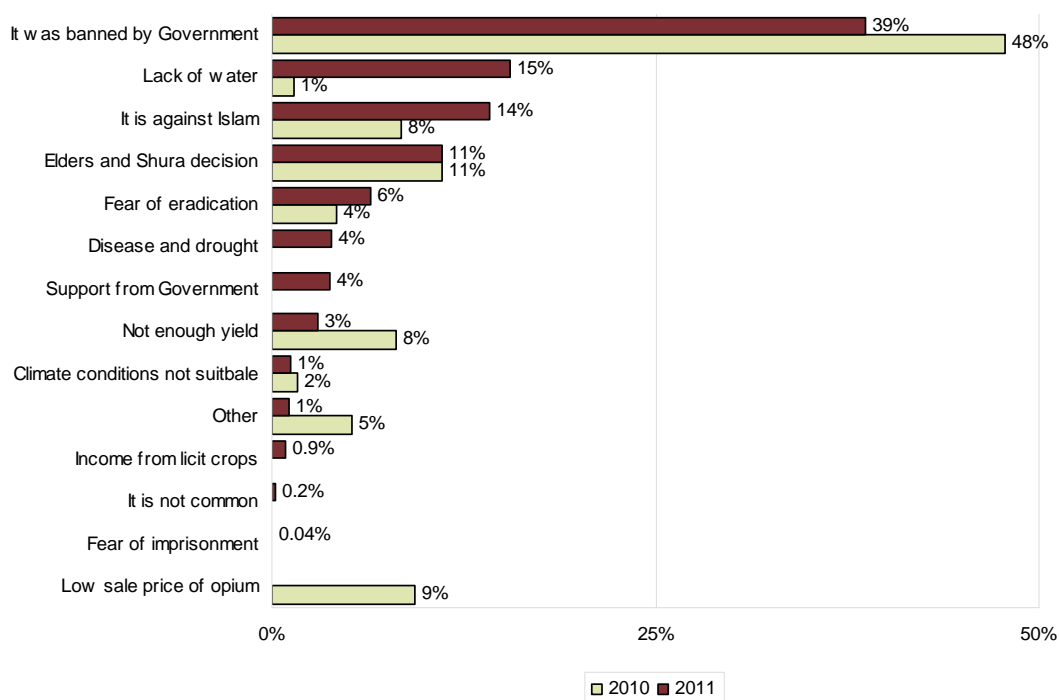
Figure 1 Reasons for opium cultivation in 2011 in opium growing villages



Reasons for not cultivating opium in 2011

The predominant reason given by 39% of respondents for not growing poppy was ‘banned by the Government’ (48% in 2010). 15% of headmen made, a reference to the adverse climatic conditions prevailing in some poppy areas mentioning ‘lack of water’ as the reason not to cultivate poppy. 14% mentioned the ‘opium cultivation is against Islam’ and 11% reported ‘Elders and Shura decision’ as reason for not growing poppy. ‘Fear of eradication’, ‘disease and drought’, ‘support from Government’ and ‘Not enough yield’ were also mentioned, but by fewer headmen.

Figure 2 Reasons for not cultivating opium in 2011



1.2. CASH ADVANCES RECEIVED FOR OPIUM CULTIVATION

The ORAS 2011 indicates that 14% (same as in ORAS 2010) of the surveyed opium poppy-growing villages received cash advances from external sources to grow opium poppy. Respondents in Uruzgan (55%), Zabul (27%), Kandahar (23%), Hilmand (12%) and Day Kundi (5%) reported having received such advances.

1.3. AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

Among the surveyed villages, only 36% received agricultural assistance in the preceding year in the form of seed, fertilizers and irrigation facilities. 64% reported not to have received such assistance.

By comparison, more than 70% (39% of total villages surveyed) villages, which cultivated opium in 2011, had not received agricultural assistance in 2010. This indicates that the provision of agricultural assistance could have a positive effect on the decision to grow or not to grow opium. On the other hand, about 29% (16% of total villages surveyed) of all villages surveyed had received agricultural assistance and still continue to grow opium pointing to the existence of other factors.

There was a strong, statistically significant association between lack of agricultural assistance and poppy cultivation.² Villages, which had not received agricultural assistance, were more likely to grow poppy than villages which had received assistance. This confirms the results of the 2010 Opium Survey, which found an equally strong association.

Table 3: Agricultural assistance vis-à-vis expected opium cultivation in 2011

Agricultural assistance received	Opium cultivation in 2011		Total
	No	Yes	
No	26%	39%	64%
Yes	20%	16%	36%
Total	46%	54%	100%

1.4. FIELD SECURITY DURING ORAS IMPLEMENTATION

The statistical association between poor security and poppy cultivation was even stronger than in the case of agricultural assistance. Almost all villages with very poor security and most villages with poor security were cultivating poppy. In other words, villages in insecure areas had a high probability of cultivating poppy, and villages in areas with good security were less likely to have poppy cultivation.

Security was of general concern in most areas in the Southern region (Hilmand, Uruzgan and Kandahar). In the Western region Badghis, Nimroz and Farah provinces had also poor security conditions.

² A statistically significant association was assumed when the significance of the Pearson Chi-square test of independence was below 0.05.

Table 4: Security situation vis-à-vis expected opium cultivation in 2011

Poppy Cultivation 2011	Village Security Situation				
	Very good	Good	Poor	Very Bad	Total
No	11%	34%	7%	1%	52%
Yes	3%	14%	24%	6%	48%
Total	14%	48%	31%	7%	100%

1.5. AWARENESS AND ERADICATION EXPERIENCE

An awareness campaign to prevent opium cultivation was conducted in many areas of Afghanistan in October and November 2010. Just about 33% of villages in the surveyed area were reached by awareness campaigns. However, those villages which had been covered by the campaign, were less likely to grow poppy than those which had not been reached by the campaign. This association was statistically significant. Therefore the awareness campaign seems to have had a positive influence on the decision not to grow opium.

About 28% of the villages, which grew opium in 2011 (15% of total villages surveyed), had been reached by an awareness campaign against opium cultivation, and 72% hadn't (39% of the total villages surveyed).

In the sample of villages surveyed, the number of villages which had experienced eradication in 2010 was too small to conduct a statistical analysis.

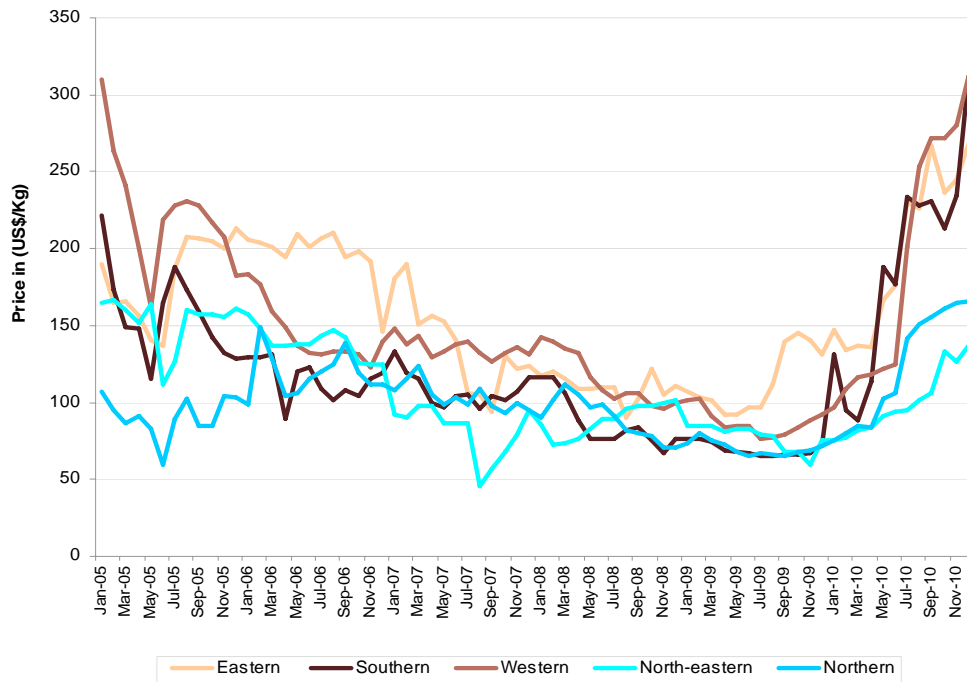
Table 5: Awareness campaign in 2010 vis-à-vis expected opium cultivation in 2011

Awareness campaign	No. of villages surveyed		Total
	No opium poppy cultivation in 2011	Opium poppy cultivation in 2011	
No	28%	39%	67%
Yes	18%	15%	33%
Total	46%	54%	100%

1.6. PRICES

UNODC collects monthly opium prices from 15 key provinces. In addition to this, the ORAS 2011 collected price information in the 359 surveyed villages. The average farm-gate prices of dry opium at the time of the survey were in line with the monthly price report in December 2010. The detailed overview of opium prices is provided based on monthly Opium Price Report for Afghanistan, December 2010.

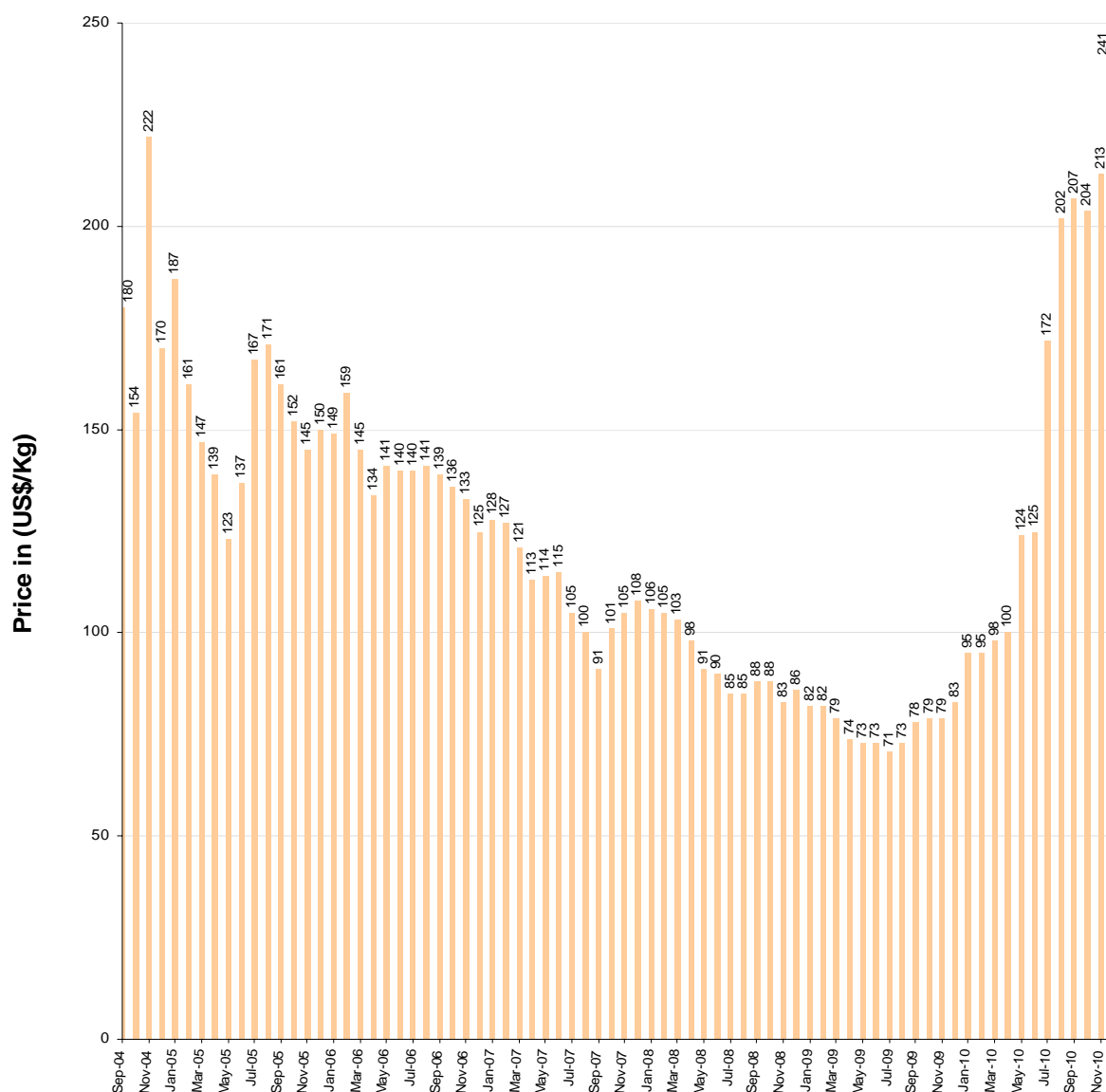
Figure 3 Regional average price of dry opium collected from traders, January 2005 – December 2010



Source: MCN/UNODC Monthly Opium Price Report for Afghanistan, December 2010

Since June 2007, prices of dry opium in the Western and Eastern regions have remained higher than the prices in other regions. Higher prices in the Western region can be attributed to its strategic position in bordering Iran. Prices have increasing trend since April 2010 in all regions and particularly in the South, West and Eastern region. The recent dramatic increase in the prices started last year after the opium blight appeared in opium fields halving the production in 2010. This increase has not yet shown signs of stabilization.

Figure 4 Average farm-gate prices for dry opium, September 2004 – December 2010



Source: MCN/UNODC Monthly Opium Price Report for Afghanistan, December 2010

At the national level, in December 2010, dry opium prices at the farm-gate level crossed the highest price recorded in November 2004.

Farmers in Afghanistan usually cultivate crops twice a year in irrigated areas, typically growing maize, rice, vegetables or cotton after harvesting opium or wheat. Some farmers grow cannabis after the first summer harvest. None of Afghanistan's licit agricultural products can currently match the gross income per hectare from opium.

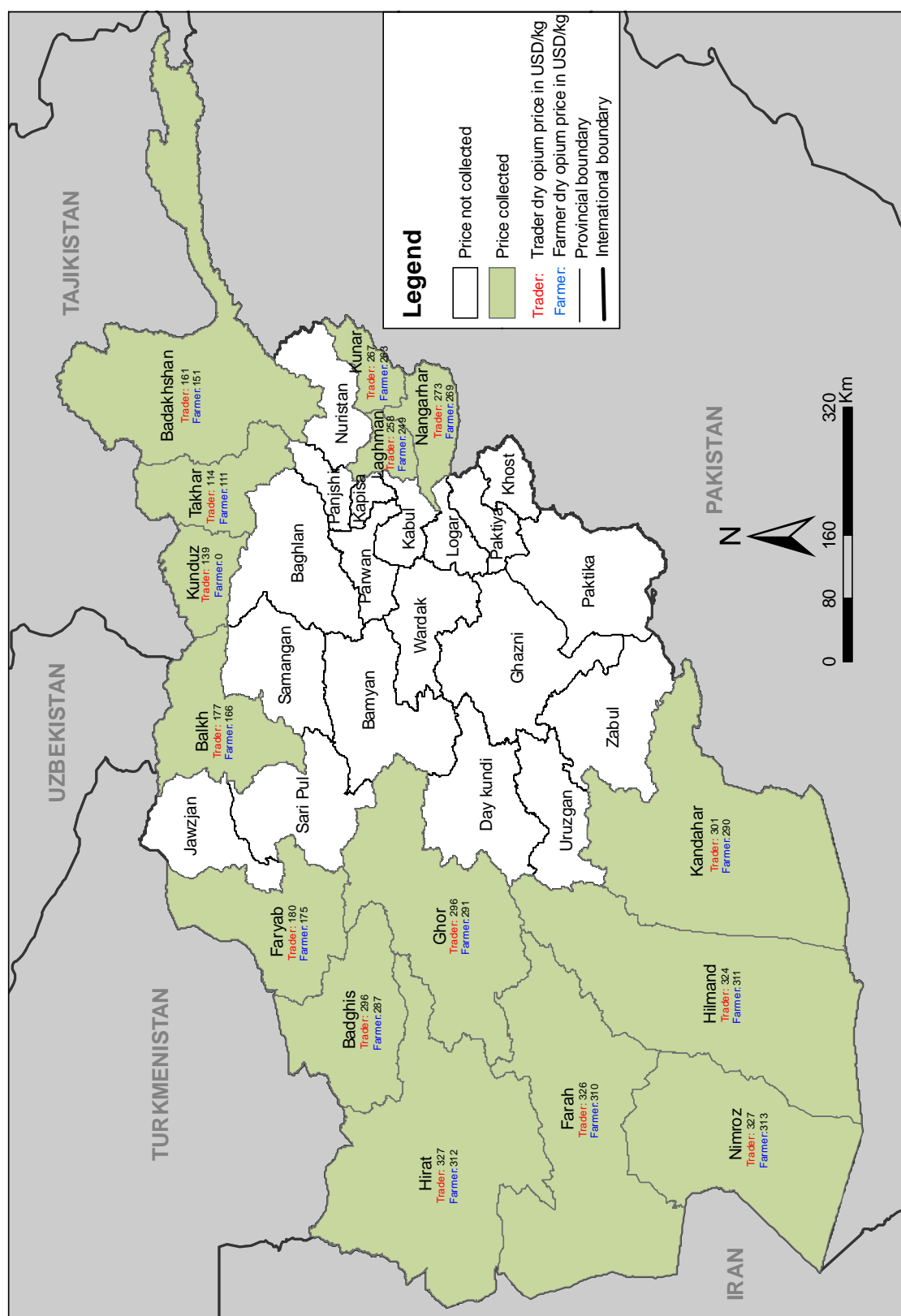
During ORAS, respondents were asked about the market prices of agricultural commodities. A comparison of prices collected during ORAS 2010 and ORAS 2011 shows significant increases in the price not only of opium but also, but to a lesser extent, of wheat and maize, two important staple crops. Between December 2010 and December 2011, dry and fresh opium prices increased by 217% and 265% respectively.

Table 6: Village level prices of dry opium and food grains in 2010 and 2011 (US\$/kg)

Crop name	Prices (US\$ per kg)		% difference
	ORAS 2010	ORAS 2011	
Dry opium	80.23	254.28	217%
Fresh opium	53.66	195.97	265%
Wheat	0.34	0.40	18%
Rice	1.03	1.00	-3%
Maize	0.26	0.33	25%

Note: 2010 prices refer to all regions, 2011 prices only to the survey area.

Map 4 Dry opium prices December 2010 (US\$/kg)



Source: Government of Afghanistan - National monitoring system implemented by MCN / UNODC
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

2 FINDINGS BY PROVINCE

2.1 EASTERN REGION

NANGARHAR PROVINCE

There could be moderate increase in opium cultivation in Nangarhar province in 2011, but the cultivation should remain low if compared to the high levels of few years ago. The province could become poppy-free with effective eradication efforts.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	719
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	Low
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Poor

KUNAR PROVINCE

Opium cultivation in 2011 is expected to moderately increase, however the level of cultivation would remain insignificant. Main opium poppy growing districts in Kunar are Asadabad, Barkunar, Nari, Sirkanay and Chawkay.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	154
Cultivation practices	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	Insignificant
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Poor

LAGHMAN PROVINCE

Moderate increase is expected in opium cultivation in 2011 in Laghman province, however the level of cultivation would remain insignificant. In 2010 Mihtarlam and Alisheng were the main poppy-cultivating districts.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	234
Cultivation practices	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	Insignificant
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of April
Security situation	Poor

NURISTAN PROVINCE

Nuristan is located at a high elevation and is expected to remain poppy-free in 2011 like it was in 2010.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Poor

KAPISA PROVINCE

There would be strong increase in opium cultivation in 2011 in Kapisa province. Therefore this province may not be poppy-free this year. Kapisa was poppy-free in 2010. The level of cultivation would remain insignificant.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Strong increase (may not be poppy-free)
Cultivation level	Insignificant
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May / early July
Security situation	Poor

2.2 CENTRAL REGION

GHAZNI PROVINCE

Ghazni province has been poppy-free since 2005. ORAS results suggest that the province will remain poppy-free in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Very poor

KHOST PROVINCE

Khost province has been poppy-free since 2007 and it is expected to remain poppy-free in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Poor

LOGAR PROVINCE

Logar province has been poppy-free since 2005 and it is expected to remain poppy-free in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Poor

PAKTIKA PROVINCE

Paktika province has been poppy-free since 2004 and the same trend is expected to continue in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Poor

PAKTYA PROVINCE

Paktya province has been poppy-free since 2005 and the same trend is expected to continue in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Poor

PARWAN PROVINCE

Parwan has been poppy-free since 2007 and it is expected to stay poppy-free in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigate
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Good

PANJSHIR PROVINCE

Panjshir province has always been poppy-free and it is expected to maintain the same status in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Very good

WARDAK PROVINCE

Wardak has been poppy-free since 2006 and it is expected to remain so in 2011.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Poppy-free
Cultivation level	Nil
Security situation	Very poor

KABUL PROVINCE

There would be moderate increase in opium cultivation in Kabul in 2011. The poppy cultivation in Kabul is confined to Surobi district.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	152
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	Insignificant
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Late May
Security situation	Very good

2.3 SOUTHERN REGION

KANDAHAR PROVINCE

Last year there was an increase in opium cultivation in Kandahar province of 30%. In 2011, cultivation trend in Kandahar is expected to moderately decrease. The cultivation level would still remain high. The main opium cultivation districts in 2010 were Ghorak, Khakrez, Maywand, Nesh, Panjwayee, Spin Boldak and Zhire.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	25,835
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate decrease
Cultivation level	High
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Very poor

HILMAND PROVINCE

A slight decrease in opium cultivation is expected in Hilmand in 2011. Cultivation level slightly decreased in 2010 to around 65,054 ha as compared to 69,833 ha in 2010. In 2011, cultivation level is expected to remain very high. The main opium cultivation districts in 2010 were Baghran, Garmser (Hazarjuft), Musa Qala, Nad Ali and Naher-i-Saraj.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	65,045
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Slight decrease
Cultivation level	Very high
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Beginning of May
Security situation	Very poor

URUZGAN PROVINCE

Uruzgan has traditionally been one of Afghanistan's major opium poppy-growing provinces. Opium cultivation reduced slightly last year from 9,224 ha in 2009 to 7,337 ha in 2010. In 2011 cultivation is expected to remain stable. The main opium cultivation districts in 2010 were Shahidi Hassas and Tirinkot (Provincial Center).

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	7,337
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Stable
Cultivation level	High
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Very poor

ZABUL PROVINCE

In 2010 there was a significant decrease of 58% in opium cultivation in Zabul province. In 2011, opium cultivation is expected to remain stable. The main opium poppy growing districts in 2010 were Mizan and Daychopan.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	483
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Stable
Cultivation level	Low
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-May
Security situation	Very poor

DAY KUNDI PROVINCE

In 2010 Day Kundi experienced an increase of 48% in opium cultivation; however it is expected to have a moderate decreasing trend in 2011. The main opium poppy growing districts in 2010 were Gizab, Kijran and Kiti.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	1,547
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate decrease
Cultivation level	Moderate
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	July
Security situation	Good (poor in two districts)

2.4 WESTERN REGION**HIRAT PROVINCE**

In 2010 there was an increase in opium cultivation in Hirat province (35%). In 2011, a strong increase is expected in opium cultivation in the province. However, the level of opium cultivation should continue to remain low in 2011 and it could become poppy-free if effective poppy eradication measures are implemented. The only opium cultivation district in Hirat province is Shindand.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	360
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Strong increase
Cultivation level	Low
Planting time	Autumn/spring
Expected main harvest time	Late May/late June
Security situation	Good (Poor at few places)

FARAH PROVINCE

Opium cultivation decreased by 17% in 2010 compared to 2009. In 2011, opium cultivation is expected to moderately increase in all the opium growing districts namely Bala Buluk, Bakwa, Delaram, Gulistan and Purchaman. The cultivation level would remain high in the province.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	14,552
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	High
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Early May
Security situation	Good

NIMROZ PROVINCE

In 2010 there was a significant increase (376%) in opium cultivation. In 2011 opium cultivation is expected to moderately increase further in the opium growing districts namely Khash Rod, Asl-i-Chakhansur and Chahar Burjak. The level of cultivation would be moderate. However, Nimroz will continue to play an important role in trafficking given its location at the border with Iran and Pakistan.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	2,039
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Moderate increase
Cultivation level	Moderate
Planting time	Autumn
Expected main harvest time	Mid-April
Security situation	Poor

GHOR PROVINCE

Ghor province was poppy-free in 2009 and 2010 but in 2011, a strong increase is expected in opium cultivation and the province may lose its poppy-free status. However, the cultivation level would remain insignificant.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	Poppy-free
Cultivation practices	Irrigated
Projected trends in 2011	Strong increase(may not be Poppy-free)
Cultivation level	Insignificant
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Late June
Security situation	Poor

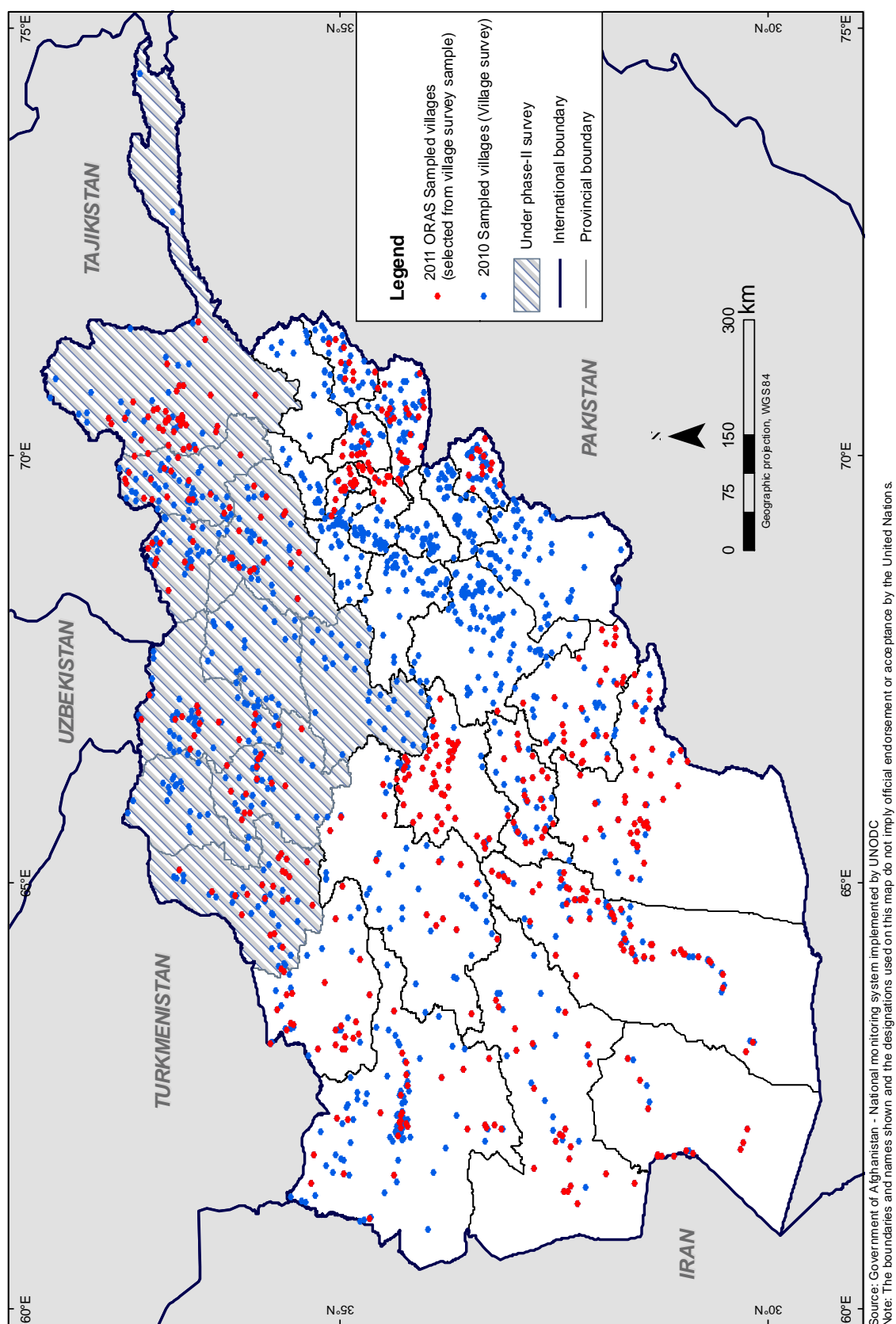
BADGHIS PROVINCE

In 2010 there was a decrease of (45%) in opium cultivation. In 2011 the opium cultivation trend is unpredictable. There could be moderate increase in opium cultivation in major rain-fed areas, if the drought like conditions do not prevail and there is enough rain. The cultivation level would remain high. The main poppy growing districts are Bala Murghab and Ghormach.

Opium cultivation details:

Cultivation in 2010 (hectares)	2,958
Cultivation practices	Irrigated and rain-fed
Projected trends in 2011	Unpredictable
Cultivation level	Moderate
Planting time	Spring
Expected main harvest time	Mid-June
Security situation	Good (Poor in two district)

Map 5 Sampling frame and selected villages for the Winter Assessment 2011 (Phase 1)



Note: The villages surveyed for the Winter Assessment 2011 are a subsample of the villages surveyed during the 2010 Opium Survey.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Winter Opium Rapid Assessment in 2011 was divided into two phases. In the first phase Southern, Western, Eastern and Central regions were surveyed. Northern and North-eastern regions would be surveyed in the second phase of ORAS starting end of January.

The first phase of the Winter Opium Rapid Assessment including training and deployment was conducted from 26 November 2010 to 3 January 2011 by 54 local field surveyors. The survey was jointly planned and implemented by the Ministry of Counter-Narcotics (MCN) of the Government of Afghanistan and UNODC.

Sampling framework

A total of 369 villages in 127 districts were selected across all poppy growing provinces, however only 359 villages could be surveyed.

The villages were selected from sampled villages of the 2010 village survey using a systematic random selection technique. No sampling was done for the 8 provinces that have been poppy-free for many years (Logar, Paktiya, Paktika, Panjshir, Ghazni, Wardak, Parwan and Nuristan).

The design and size of the sample facilitated the establishment of cultivation trends; the sample is not designed for calculating quantitative area 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 cultivation trends and the security situation throughout the province.

Training of surveyors and data collection

The surveyors were selected on the basis of a written test, their experience in conducting opium poppy surveys, knowledge of local customs and their acceptance by local communities. During the training period, a total of seven survey coordinators and 54 surveyors were trained in understanding the questionnaire, survey forms and effective survey techniques.

The surveyors conducted structured interviews with the headmen of selected villages in all provinces. UNODC and MCN coordinators monitored data quality and the progress of the survey closely.



ORAS training in Eastern region



ORAS field survey (headman interview) in Central region



ORAS training in the Western region



ORAS training in the Southern region

Debriefing

At the end of the survey, surveyors were debriefed by survey coordinators, reporting on their findings in the areas they had visited and providing an assessment of various factors that influence opium cultivation. The debriefing information was also used to understand the socio-political situation; difficulties encountered in conducting the survey; the level of control exercised by Governors over their respective provinces; the presence of anti-Government elements and the resulting impact on opium cultivation; corruption etc.

ANNEX 1: Cultivation levels from 2005 to 2010 and expected trends in 2011

Province	Cultivation 2005 (ha)	Cultivation 2006 (ha)	Cultivation 2007 (ha)	Cultivation 2008 (ha)	Cultivation 2009 (ha)	Cultivation 2010 (ha)	Change 2009-2010 (ha)	Change 2009-2010 (%)	2011 Cultivation trend
Ghazni	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Kabul	Poppy free	80	500	310	132	152	20	15%	Moderate increase
Khost	Poppy free	133	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Logar	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Paktika	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Paktya	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Panjshir	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Parwan	Poppy free	124	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Wardak	106	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Central Region	106	337	500	310	132	152	20	15%	
Kapisa	115	282	835	436	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Strong increase (May not be poppy free)
Kunar	1,059	932	446	290	164	154	-10	-6%	Moderate increase
Laghman	274	710	561	425	135	234	99	73%	Moderate increase
Nangarhar	1,093	4,872	18,739	Poppy free	294	719	425	145%	Moderate increase
Nuristan	1,554	1,516	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Poppy free
Eastern Region	4,095	8,312	20,581	1,151	593	1,107	514	87%	
Hilmand	26,500	69,324	102,770	103,590	69,833	65,045	-4,788	-7%	Slight decrease
Kandahar	12,989	12,619	16,615	14,623	19,811	25,835	6,024	30%	Moderate decrease
Uruzgan	2,024	9,703	9,204	9,939	9,224	7,337	-1,887	-20%	Stable
Zabul	2,053	3,210	1,611	2,335	1,144	483	-661	-58%	Stable
Day Kundi	2,581	7,044	3,346	2,273	3,002	1,547	-1,455	-48%	Moderate decrease
Southern Region	46,147	101,900	133,546	132,760	103,014	100,247	-2,767	-3%	
Badghis	2,967	3,205	4,219	587	5,411	2,958	-2,453	-45%	Unpredictable
Farah	10,240	7,694	14,865	15,010	12,405	14,552	2,147	17%	Moderate increase
Ghor	2,689	4,679	1,503	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Strong increase (May not be poppy free)
Hirat	1,924	2,287	1,525	266	556	360	-196	-35%	Strong increase
Nimroz	1,690	1,955	6,507	6,203	428	2,039	1611	376%	Moderate increase
Western Region	19,510	19,820	28,619	22,066	18,800	19,909	1,109	6%	
Badakhshan	7,370	13,056	3,642	200	557	1,100	543	97%	Under ORAS phase II
Kunduz	275	102	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Takhar	1,364	2,178	1,211	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
North-eastern Region *	9,009	15,336	4,853	200	557	1,100	543	97%	
Baghlan	2,563	2,742	671	475	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Balkh	10,837	7,232	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Bamyan	126	17	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Faryab	2,665	3,040	2,866	291	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Jawzjan	1,748	2,024	1,085	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Samangan	3,874	1,960	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Sari Pul	3,227	2,252	260	Poppy free	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	Under ORAS phase II
Northern Region *	25,040	19,267	4,882	766	Poppy free	Poppy free	NA	NA	
Total (rounded)	104,000	165,000	193,000	157,000	123,000	123,000	0	0%	Overall slight decrease

*Northern and North-eastern regions would be surveyed in the second phase of ORAS.



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