

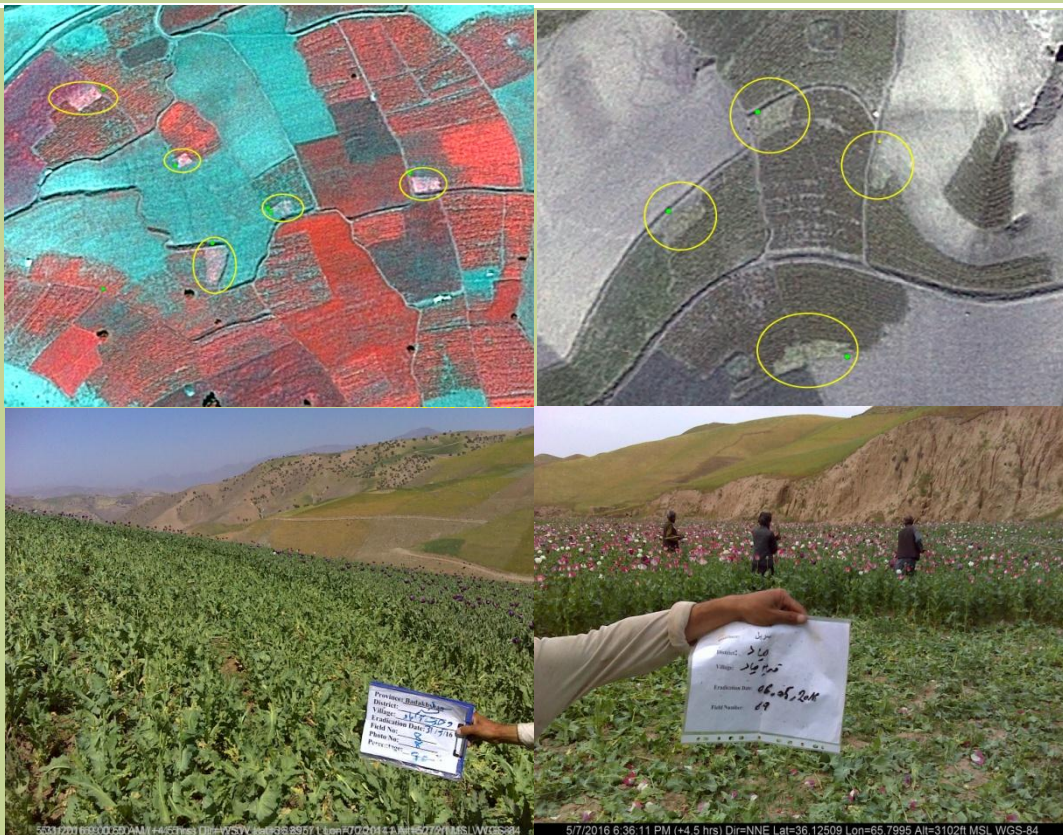


Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Counter Narcotics



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Afghanistan Poppy Eradication Verification



July 2016

Final Report

Abbreviations

GPS: Global Positioning System

GLE: Governor-led Eradication

MCN: Ministry of Counter Narcotics

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

AGE: Anti Government Elements

ANA: Afghanistan National Army

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| TYPICAL GROWTH STAGES OF POPPY | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| Emergence stage | Cabbage stage |
|  |  |
| Stem-elongation stage | Flowering stage |
|  |  |
| Capsule stage | Lancing stage |

Summary

- MCN and UNODC are joint partners to monitor and verify Governor-led eradication of poppy.
- In 2016 a total of **355 hectares** of Governor-led eradication of poppy fields were verified in **7** provinces of Afghanistan namely Badakhshan, Laghman, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sari-Pul and Takhar. Compared to last year, there was a decrease of **91%** in Governor-led eradication of poppy fields in Afghanistan.
- Last year (2015) a total of **3,760 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in **12** provinces in Southern, Western, Eastern, Northern and North-eastern.
- The highest poppy eradication was verified in Badakhshan province (**270 hectares**), showing a decrease of **78%** than the eradication carried out last year in the same province (**1246 hectares**).
- The eradication did not take place in the high opium poppy cultivated provinces, due to extremely poor security situation.
- Final figures for eradication in Badakhshan and Sari-Pul provinces are confirmed after checking with high resolution satellite imageries supported by ground pictures and GPS tracking files. For the other provinces namely Takhar, Kandahar, Laghman and Nangarhar, the quality checks was done by scrutinizing the survey forms, checking the area measurement calculations and field photographs.
- Quality control of eradication verification (partially eradicated fields) was carried out using satellite data in Badakhshan province. The quality of eradication in Badakhshan province was very poor.
- Farmers' resistance against poppy eradication operations were manifested as direct attacks on eradication team. Since the start of eradication operations this year 8 persons (1 ANA and 7 others) were killed and 7 persons were injured (2 ANA, 1 ALP, 1 ANP and 3 others).

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have a joint responsibility of monitoring and verifying opium poppy eradication activities led by the Governors.

Governor-led eradication (GLE) activities are envisaged in all poppy cultivating provinces. The verifiers in the field were recruited and selected jointly by MCN/UNODC survey coordinators. A team of MCN/UNODC was deputed to regional offices to supervise the recruitment, training and coordination activities.

The verification activities in the field was monitored closely by MCN/UNODC survey coordinators in all regions.

Governor led eradication verification

Provincial Governors are responsible for eradication of poppy crops in their respective provinces with the support of district governors. Governor-led eradication activities were envisaged in most of the poppy cultivating provinces of Afghanistan.

Detailed methodology of Governor-led eradication verification is given in *Annex 1*. The areas verified by the eradication verifiers were checked by satellite imageries wherever acquisition of imageries was possible. A total of **68** eradication verifiers were trained on eradication verification techniques. Out of the 68 trained verifiers 33 verifiers were deployed in the field based on eradication plan received from Governors. The remaining 35 verifiers were on standby to be made available when required. The eradication verifiers are part of the eradication teams led by the respective provincial Governors.

Table 1: Distribution of verifiers by province

| Province | No. of Verifiers trained | No. of Verifiers Deployed | No. of Verifiers standby |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Badakhshan | 20 | 16 | 4 |
| Hilmand | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| Kandahar | 10 | 2 | 8 |
| Nimroz | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Uruzgan | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Kunar | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Laghman | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Nangarhar | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Faryab | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Takhar | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sari-Pul | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Total Verifiers | 68 | 33 | 35 |

2. Results

GLE was verified and reported from Badakhshan, Nimroz, Kandahar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Sari-Pul and Takhar provinces. The areas verified and reported by the eradication verifiers were checked by satellite imageries where satellite imageries were available. Table 2 shows the area of Governor-led poppy eradication along with number of fields and villages covered at province level. Detail of GLE by districts is given in *Annex 2*.

Table 2: GLE by province, 2016

| Province | Eradication verified (ha) | No. of eradicated fields reported | No. of villages eradication reported |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Badakhshan* | 270 | 7,645 | 162 |
| Kandahar | 4 | 19 | 3 |
| Laghman | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| Nangarhar | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Nimroz | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Sari-Pul* | 55 | 167 | 16 |
| Takhar | 21 | 66 | 15 |
| Grand Total | 355 | 7,922 | 201 |

* Provinces checked with satellite imagery.

A total of **355 hectares** of poppy eradication were verified by physical measurement of **7,922** poppy fields in **201** villages of **7** provinces in Afghanistan. Quality checks using high resolution satellite image was carried out to authenticate the eradication area reported by verifiers in Badakhshan and Sari-Pul provinces. There is a decrease of **91%** in eradication verified this year compared to last year. In 2015 the total verified GLE was **3,760 hectares** in **11,694** poppy fields, **619** villages and **12** provinces.

Table 3: GLE and percentage change, 2015-2016

| Province | Eradication Verification (ha) 2015 | Eradication Verification (ha) 2016 | % Change |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Hilmand | 1747 | 0 | -100% |
| Kandahar | 396 | 4 | -99% |
| Nimroz | 40 | 1 | -97% |
| Farah | 52 | 0 | -100% |
| Kunar | 9 | 0 | -100% |
| Laghman | 7 | 3 | -64% |
| Nangarhar | 137 | 1 | -99% |
| Uruzgan | 75 | 0 | -100% |
| Daykundi | 5 | 0 | -100% |
| Sari-Pul | 33 | 55 | 67% |
| Badakhshan | 1246 | 270 | -78% |
| Takhar | 12 | 21 | 74% |
| Total | 3760 | 355 | -91% |

Note: Provincial eradication figures do not add to total due to rounding.

3. Verification of eradication using satellite imageries:

- **Verification of over reporting.**

Cross checking of eradication verification reported by field verifiers was carried out using high resolution satellite imageries. UNODC procured the satellite imageries based on the field coordinates recorded by verifiers in the eradicated poppy fields to validate authenticity of the reported eradication area. The GLE in Badakhshan and Sari-Pul provinces were checked with satellite imageries. The verification with satellite imageries was supported with ground pictures and GPS tracking collected by verifier in provinces. Since 2013 the eradicated fields are tracked using GPS which provides the location and shape of the eradicated fields. These tracks have helped in identification of eradicated poppy fields on satellite imageries.

- **Verification of eradication quality**

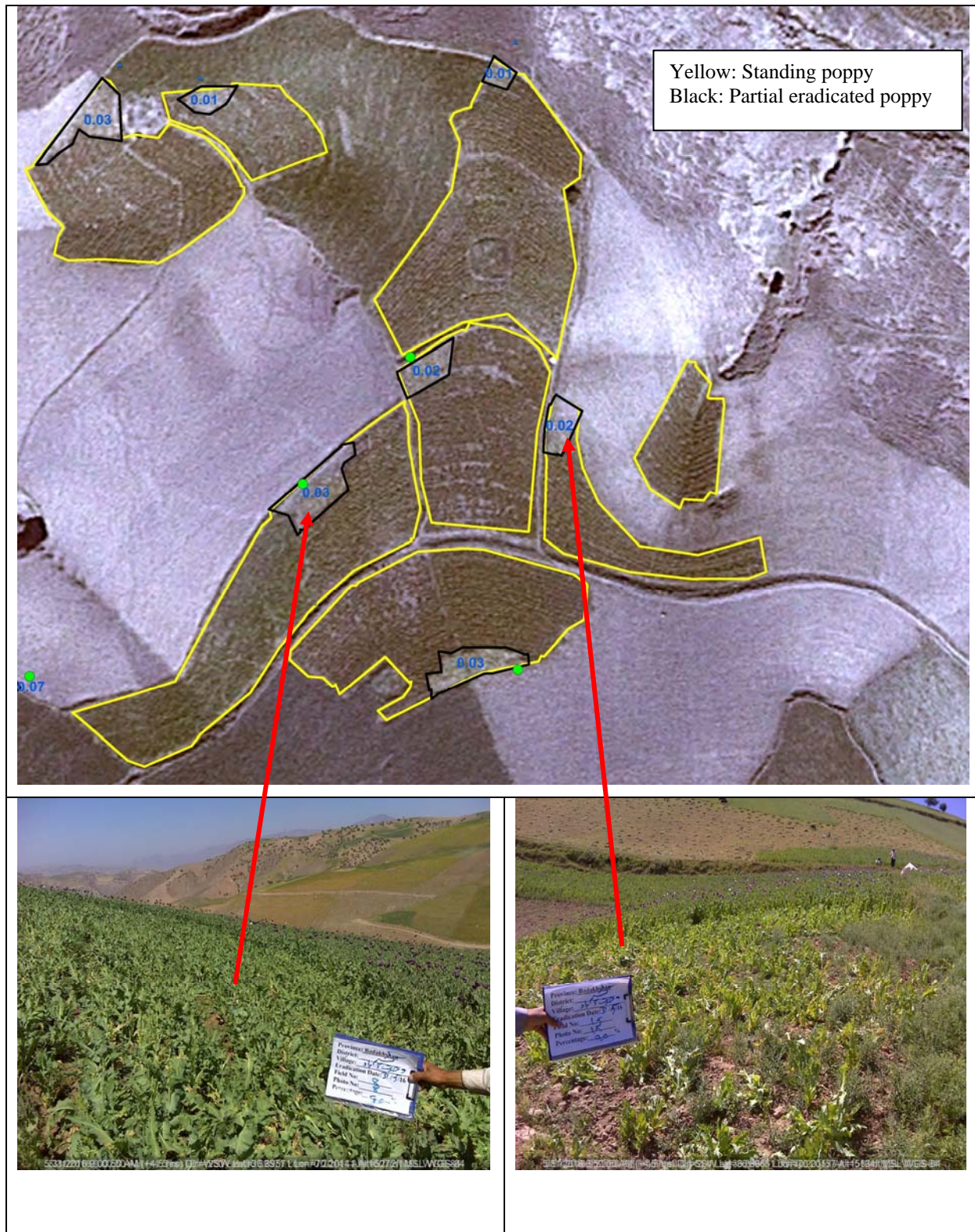
Partially eradicated fields were verified using satellite imagery for the first time this year. The field verifiers report the percentage of each eradicated field on the ground. This reported figures was verified using satellite imagery acquired immediately after the date of eradication. The difference in tone and texture of eradicated and standing poppy on the satellite imagery was used to verify the quality of eradication within each field.

In Badakhshan province the eradication was mainly carried out manually by stick. The quality of eradication (partially eradicated fields) was successfully verified using satellite imagery.

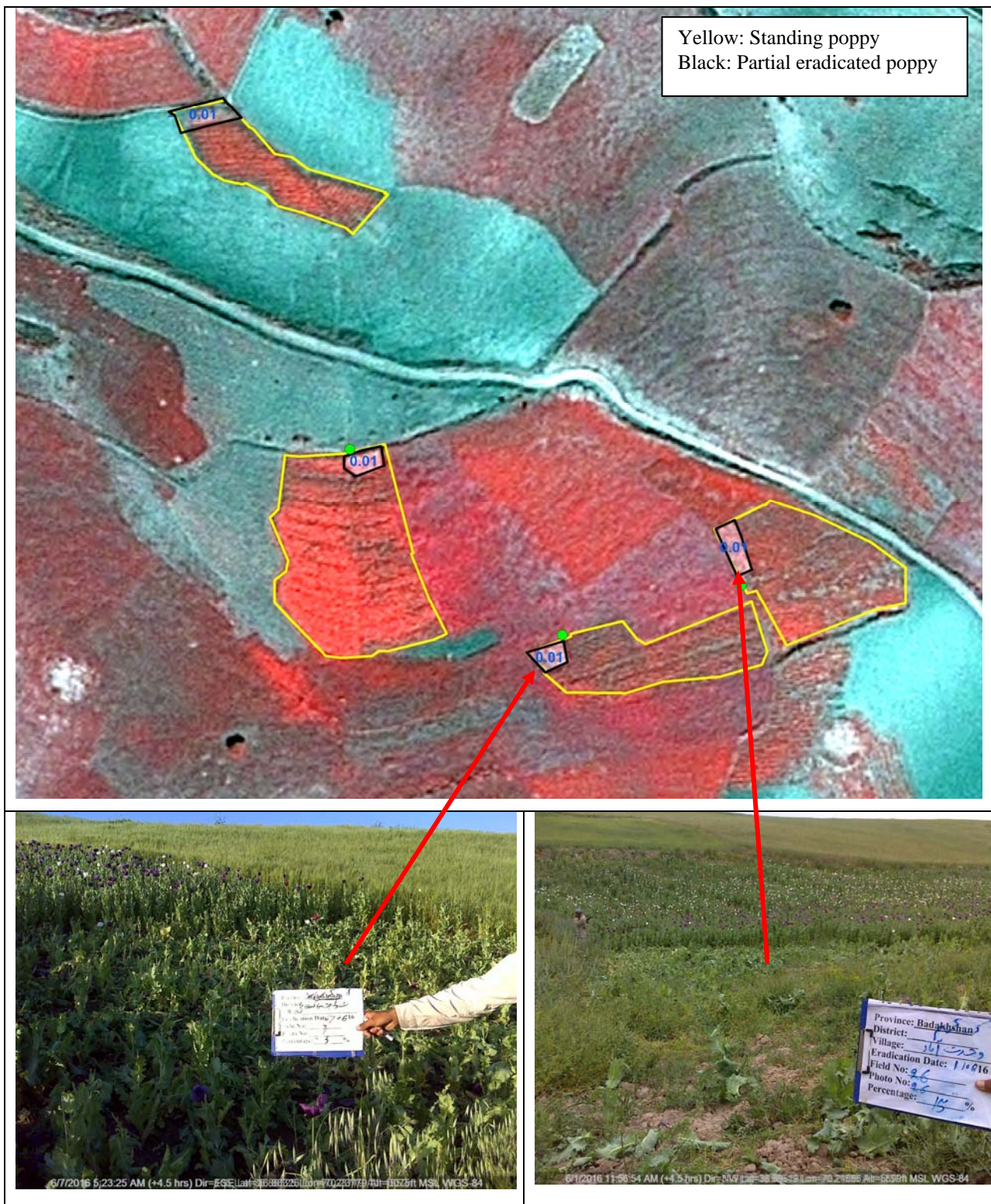
Badakhshan province:

- Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and an over reporting to the extent of 38% (**162 hectares**) was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Badakhshan province has been corrected to **270 hectares**. The quality of eradication was very poor in Badakhshan province.

The below snap shots show cases of partially eradicated poppy fields:



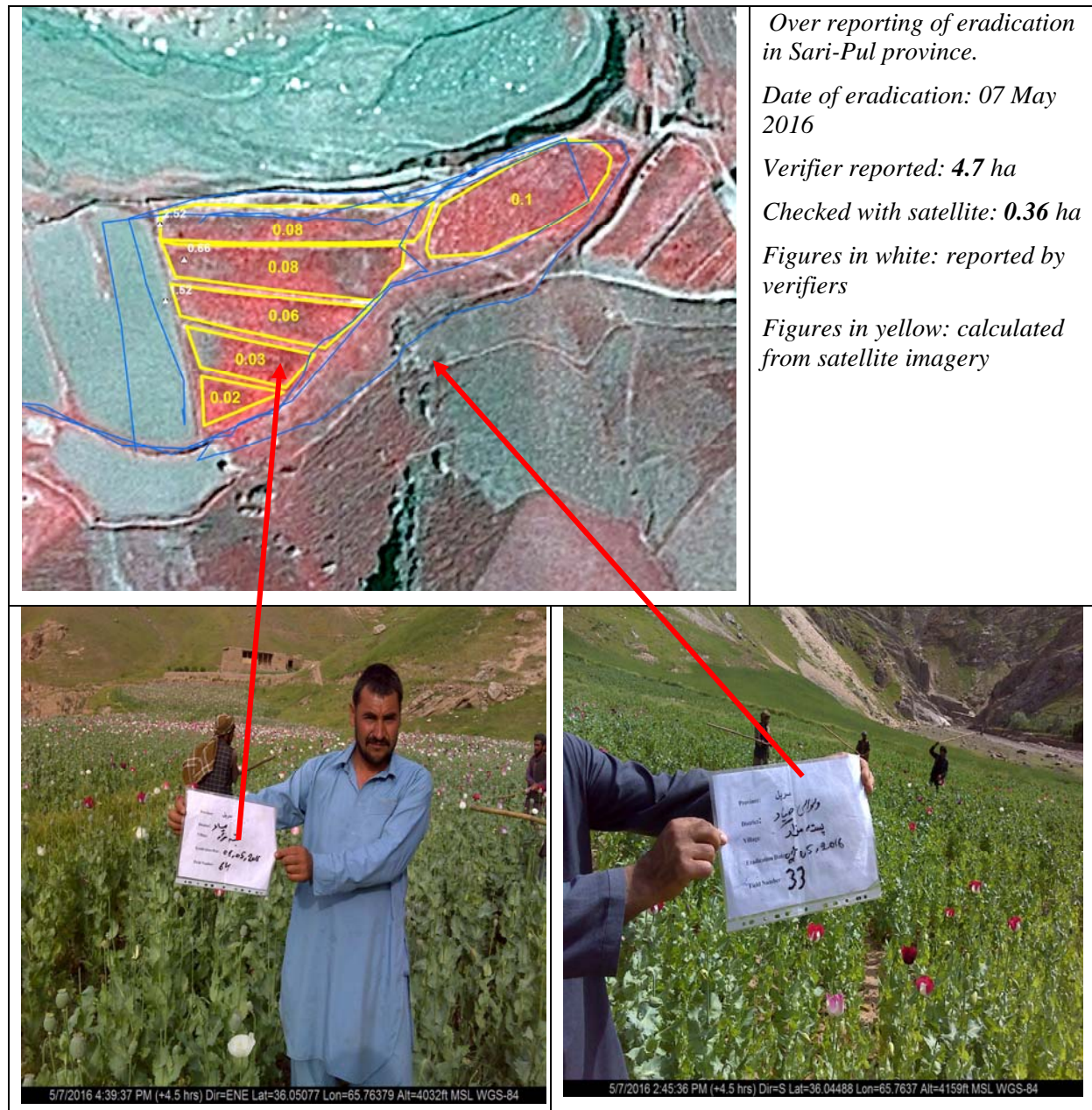
The below snap shots show cases of poor quality of eradication carried by eradication team:
The difference in tone and texture of the eradicated part and standing poppy is clearly visible.



Sari-Pul Province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and to the extent of 72% (140 hectares) of over reporting is confirmed. The final eradication figures in Sari-Pul province has been corrected to 55 hectares.

The snap shots showing over-reporting of eradication by verifiers in Sari-Pul province:



4. Timing of Poppy Eradication

The timing of effective eradication of opium is when poppy is at cabbage stage since poppy plants can be easily recognized at this stage. However, the stick eradication is not effective during the cabbage-stage. **99% of** eradication was carried out in month of May and June in 2016.

Figure 1: Percentage of GLE by month in 2015 and 2016

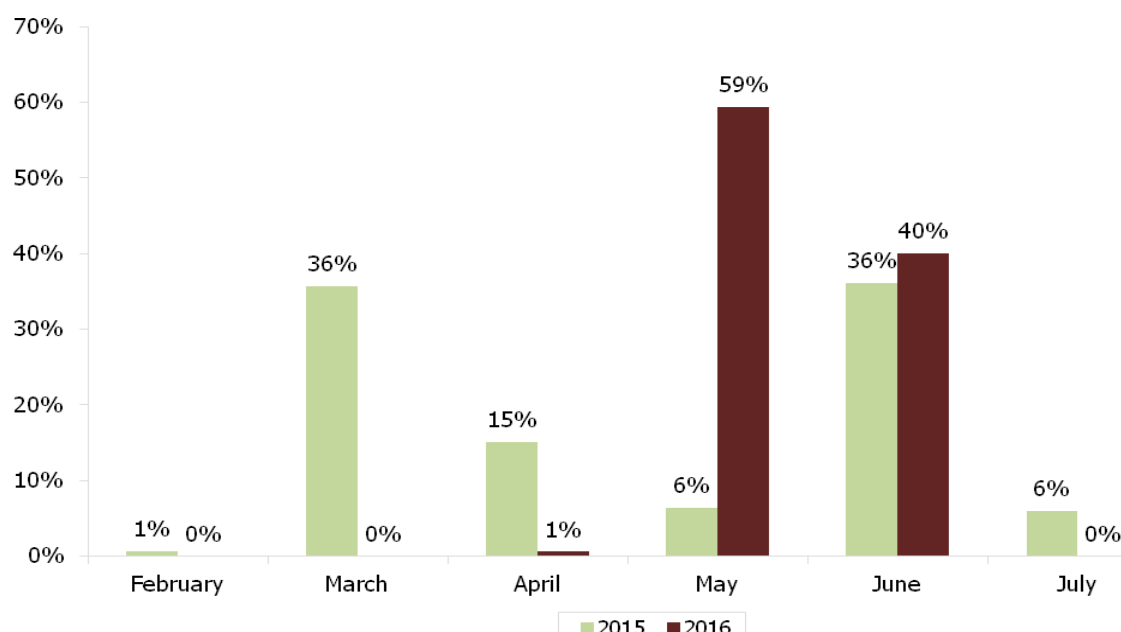


Table 4: Start and end dates of GLE, 2016

| Region | Province | Eradication Start Date | Eradication End Date | Eradication (ha) |
|------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| East | Laghman | 1-May-2016 | 2-May-2016 | 3 |
| | Nangarhar | 1-May-2016 | 2-May-2016 | 1 |
| South | Kandahar | 11-Apr-2016 | 20-Apr-2016 | 4 |
| West | Nimroz | 1-Apr-2016 | 2-Apr-2016 | 1 |
| North | Sari-Pul | 1-May-2016 | 7-May-2016 | 55 |
| North-east | Badakhshan | 16-May-2016 | 5-July-2016 | 270 |
| | Takhar | 17-May-2016 | 24-May-2016 | 21 |

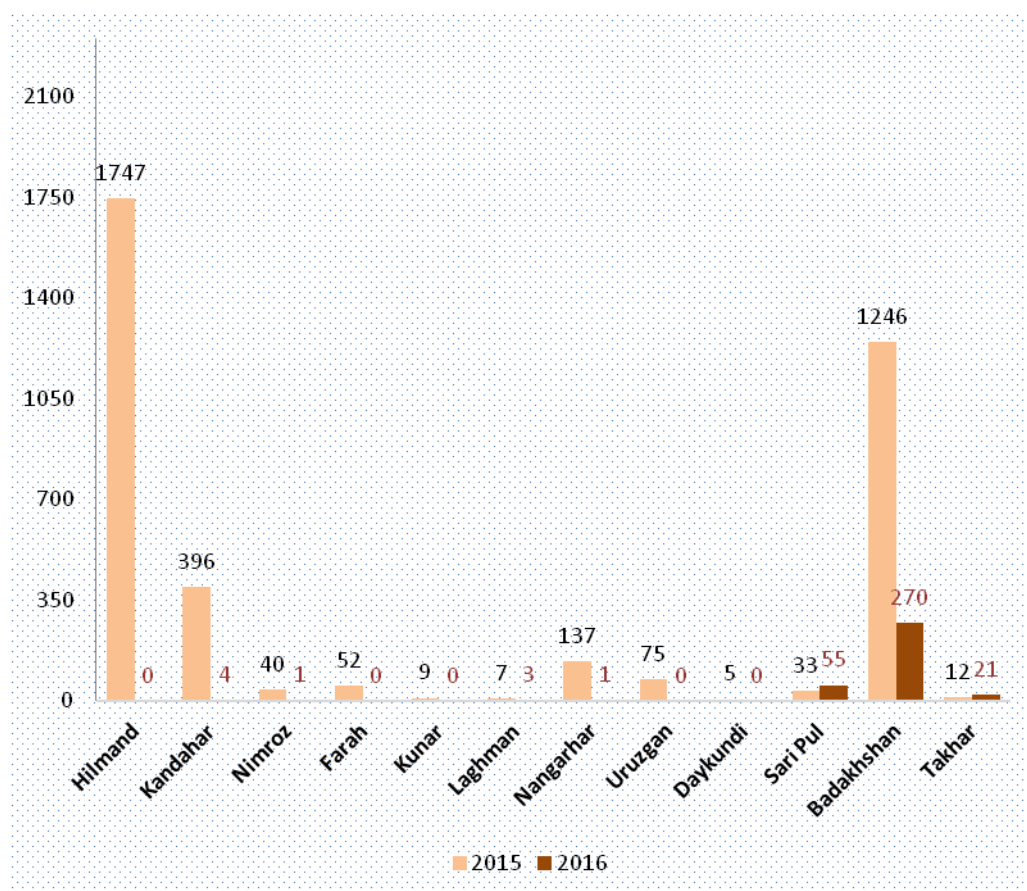
Note: Provincial eradication figures do not add to total due to rounding.

5. Comparison of GLE in 2015 and 2016

Major observations on eradication campaign in 2015 and 2016 are:

- Total poppy eradication carried out in 2016 was **91%** less than in 2015. This year the total GLE carried out was **355 hectares** in **7** provinces compared to **3,760 hectares** in **12** provinces in 2015.
- The GLE campaign was started late as compare to last year.
- This year GLE campaign did not take place in Southern, Western, Eastern and Central regions. A negligible (total of 9 hectares) eradication was carried out in Kandahar, Nimroz, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces.
- Since last two years the GLE campaigns were not carried out in Kabul province (Central region), Badghis, Ghor provinces (Western region), in Baghlan and Faryab (Northern region).

Figure 2: GLE in 2015 and 2016 (hectare)



6. Regional findings

Eastern region (Kunar, Laghman, Kapisa, Nangarhar, Nuristan):

- In Nangarhar province, GLE operations started on 1 May 2016 and concluded on 2 May 2016 in Surkh Rud district. A total of **1** hectare of eradicated fields was verified.
- In Laghman province, GLE operations started on 1 May 2016 and concluded on 2 May 2016 in Mehterlam district. A total of **3** hectares of eradicated fields were verified.
- No eradication was carried out in Kunar, Kapisa and Nuristan provinces.



GLE in Surkh Rud district of Nangarhar province



GLE in Mehterlam district of Laghman province

Southern region (Hilmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Day Kundi):

- In Kandahar province, GLE operations started on 11 April 2016 and concluded on 20 April 2016 in Maiwand, Panjwayee and Zhire districts. A total of **4** hectares were verified by verifiers.
- No eradication was carried out in Hilmand, Uruzgan, Daykundi and Zabul provinces due to poor security situation.



GLE in Zhire district of Kandahar province



GLE in Maiwand district of Kandahar province

Western region (Farah, Ghor, Hirat, Badghis Nimroz):

- In Nimroz province, GLE operations are started on 1 April 2016 and concluded on 2 April 2016 in Khash Rod district. A total of **1** hectares of eradicated fields were verified.
- No eradication was carried out in Ghor, Hirat, Badghis, Farah provinces this year.

Northern region (Baghlan, Faryab, Samangan, Sari-Pul):

- In Sari-Pul province, GLE operations started on 1 May 2016 and concluded on 7 May 2016 in Sari-Pul and Sayyad districts. A total of **55** hectares of eradicated fields were verified after quality check with satellite imagery.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Province: <i>ساری پول</i> District: <i>ساری پول</i> Village: <i>(ج)</i> Eradication Date: <i>05/05/2016</i> Field Number: <i>2</i></p> <p>5/5/2016 3:47:14 PM (+4.5 hrs) Dir=NNW Lat=36.28581 Lon=65.71703 Alt=1931ft MSL WGS-84</p> |  <p>Province: <i>ساری پول</i> District: <i>ساری پول</i> Village: <i>(ج)</i> Eradication Date: <i>05/05/2016</i> Field Number: <i>30</i></p> <p>5/4/2016 8:53:08 AM (+4.5 hrs) Dir=NE Lat=36.30644 Lon=65.85553 Alt=1791ft MSL WGS-84</p> |
| GLE in Sayyad district of Sari-Pul province | GLE in Provincial Center district of Sari-Pul province |

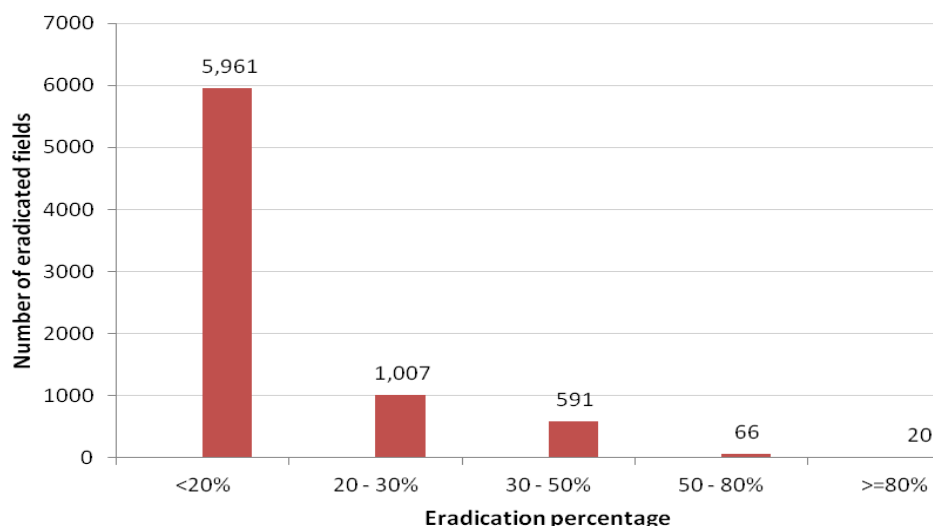
- Eradication did not take place in Baghlan, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces.

Central region (Kabul):

- GLE campaigns was not carried out in Central region.

North-eastern region (Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz):

- **Badakhshan:** A total of 270 hectares of GLE was verified in Argo, Daryim, Kishim and Tashkan districts. The eradication was mainly carried out with stick during cabbage, stem-elongation and flowering stages. Since last three years the quality of eradication has been very poor in most of the eradicated fields. Out of 7,645 poppy eradicated fields, the quality verified with satellite imagery has indicated that 5961 poppy fields were eradicated less than 20% and 1007 poppy fields eradicated less than 30% and only 20 poppy fields were eradicated more than 80%.
- **Figure 3: Percentage of poppy eradication in each field by number of fields in 2016.**



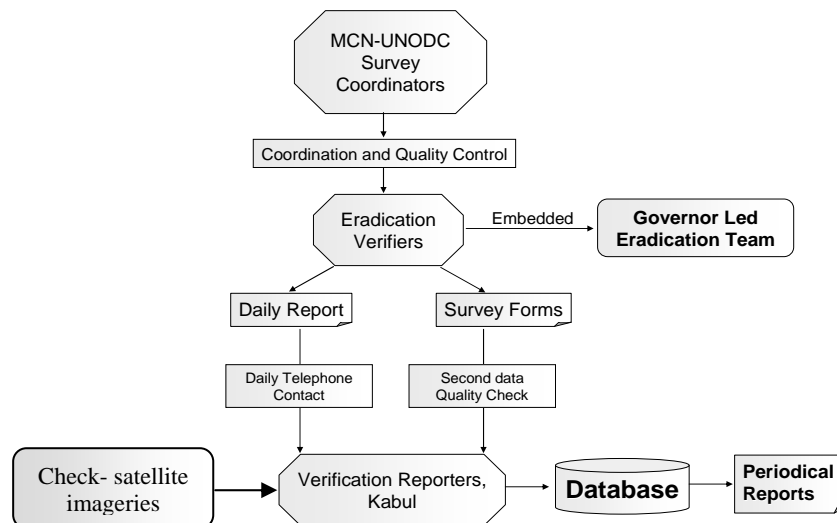
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| <p>Governor-led Eradication in Argo district of Badakhshan province</p> | <p>Governor-led Eradication in Darayim district of Badakhshan province</p> |

- In Takhar province, GLE operations started on 17 May 2016 and concluded on 24 May 2016 in Eshkamish district. A total of **21** hectares of eradicated fields were verified.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | |
| <p>Governor-led Eradication in Eshkamish district of Takhar province</p> | <p>Governor-led Eradication in Eshkamish district of Takhar province</p> |

Annex 1:

Methodology: Governor-led eradication (GLE) verification



1. Eradication verifiers are part of the governor-led eradication (GLE) teams.
2. The verifiers take measurements of each eradicated field using pace length. In addition since last year, measurements are recorded using GPS tracking system. This provided the location and shape of the eradicated fields facilitating verification by satellite imageries.
3. Coordinates of all eradicated fields including photographs are collected by verifiers.
4. The verifiers draw sketch maps of each field as a reference for area calculations of eradicated fields.
5. The verification reporters in Kabul obtain the provisional data of eradicated fields from the verifiers through telephone (mobile/satellite phones) and update the database on a daily basis.
6. The verifiers fill in hardcopy survey forms and submit them to the UNODC regional offices. The forms are checked by the surveys coordinators before sending to the Kabul office for data entry.
7. MCN/UNODC publishes weekly reports to inform stakeholders on eradication status. The eradication figures provided in these reports are provisional until verified by satellite imageries.
8. The updated eradicated area figures for each province are reported to EWG on a weekly basis.
9. Detailed validation of the results is done using data obtained through helicopter flights, as well as from satellite imagery to calculate the final area of eradicated poppy fields wherever such data are available. The quality of eradication (partially eradicated field) are also checked with satellite imageries.
10. The eradication area is corrected based on the quality of eradication reported by verifiers. The eradication is considered 100% for fields eradicated more than 80%.
11. Pressure of any kind on verifiers to influence their reporting may lead to the suspension or cancellation of the verification survey in that region.
12. The verification survey does not cover self-eradication by the farmers.

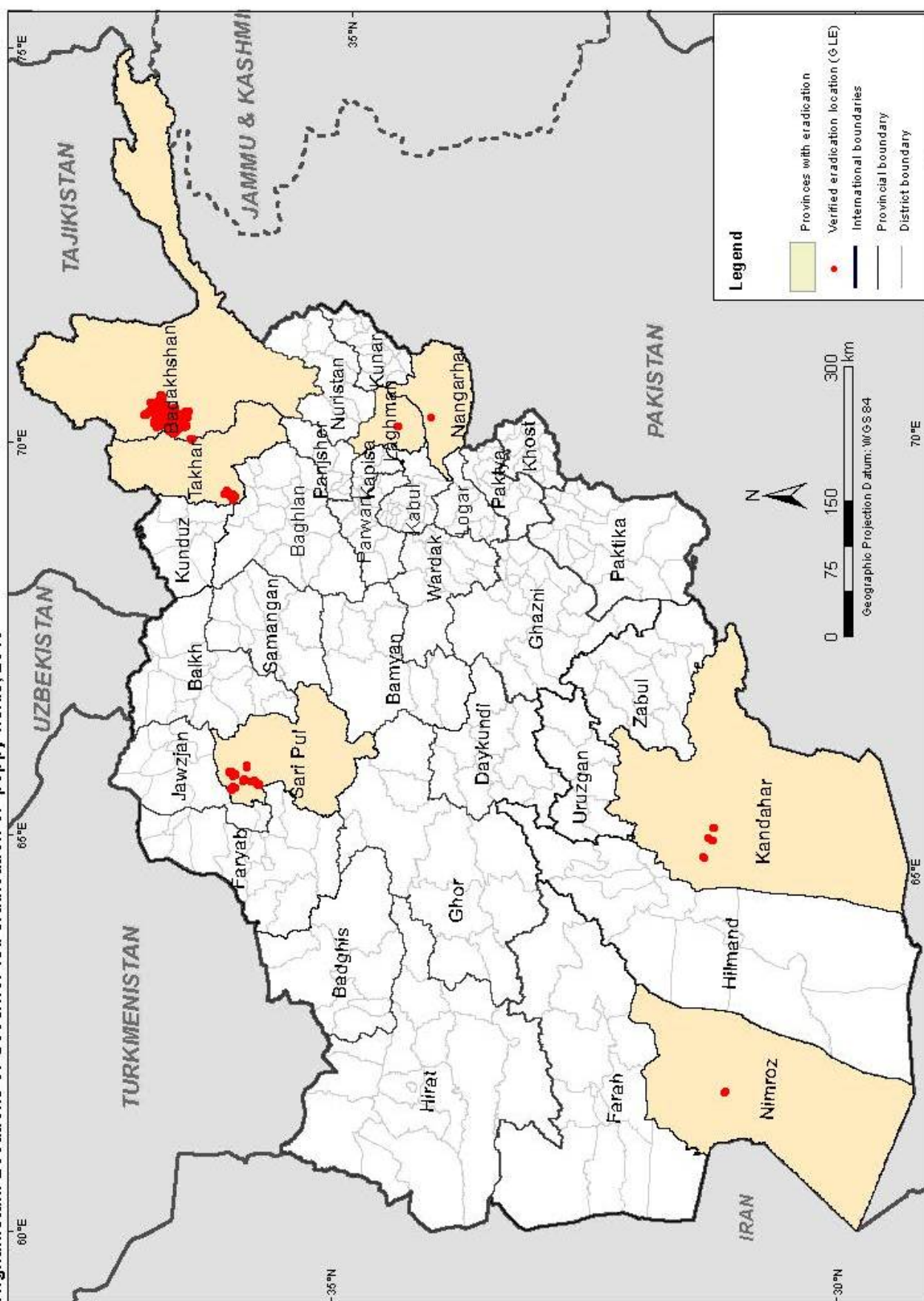
Annex 2:

Governor-led poppy eradication by district, 2016

| Province | DISTRICT | Eradication verified (ha) | No. of fields eradication reported | No. of villages eradication reported |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Badakhshan | Argo | 113 | 3,759 | 67 |
| | Darayim | 22 | 904 | 24 |
| | Kishim | 67 | 1,542 | 36 |
| | Tashkan | 68 | 1,440 | 35 |
| Badakhshan Total | | 270 | 7,645 | 162 |
| Kandahar | Maiwand | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| | Panjwayee | 0.1 | 3 | 1 |
| | Zhire | 3 | 14 | 1 |
| Kandahar Total | | 4 | 19 | 3 |
| Laghman | Mehterlam (Provincial Center) | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| Laghman Total | | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| Nangarhar | Surkh Rud | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Nangarhar Total | | 1 | 10 | 1 |
| Nimroz | Khash Rod | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Nimroz Total | | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Sari-Pul | Sari-Pul (Provincial Center) | 20 | 93 | 8 |
| | Sayyad | 35 | 74 | 8 |
| Sari-Pul Total | | 55 | 167 | 16 |
| Takhar | Eshkamish | 21 | 66 | 15 |
| Takhar Total | | 21 | 66 | 15 |
| Grand Total | | 355 | 7,922 | 201 |

Note: Provincial and district eradication figures do not add to total due to rounding.

Afghanistan: Locations of Governor-led eradication of poppy fields, 2016



Source: MCN - UNODC Afghanistan Eradication Survey 2016
 Note: The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.