



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Counter Narcotics



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# Afghanistan Poppy Eradication Verification



September 2018

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

ANP: Afghanistan National police

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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 2018 a total of **406 hectares** of Governor-led eradication of poppy fields were verified in **4** provinces of Afghanistan namely Badakhshan, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar. Compared to last year, there was a decrease of **85%** in Governor-led eradication of poppy fields in Afghanistan. The highest poppy eradication was verified in Nangarhar province (**301 hectares**).
- Last year (2017) a total of **750 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in **14** provinces in Southern, Western, Eastern, Northern and North-eastern.
- The quality of eradication in Badakhshan province continued to be very poor this year. Out of **85 hectares** of eradication verified, 65 hectares were eradicated partially (less than 80% in each field).
- Due to continued poor security situation, the eradication did not take place in most of the high opium poppy cultivated provinces since last three years.
- Final figures for eradication in Badakhshan, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces are confirmed after checking with satellite imageries supported by ground pictures and GPS tracking files.
- Farmers' resistance against poppy eradication operations were reported in Nangarhar province as direct attack on eradication team. During the eradication operations this year one ANP and four insurgents were killed, two ANP were injured.

## 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 Provincial Governors.

The verifiers in the field were recruited and selected jointly by MCN/UNODC. A team of MCN/UNODC was deputed to regional offices to supervise the recruitment, training and coordination the field activities.

The verification activities in the field were monitored closely by MCN/UNODC survey staff.

### *Governor led eradication verification*

Provincial Governors are responsible for eradication of poppy crops in their respective provinces with the support of district governors.

Detailed methodology of Governor-led eradication verification is given in *Annex 1*. The areas verified by the eradication verifiers were checked with satellite imageries wherever acquisition of imageries was possible. A total of **100** eradication verifiers were trained on eradication verification techniques. Out of the 100 trained verifiers 40 verifiers were deployed in the field based on eradication plan received from Governors. The remaining 60 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
Kabul	5	4	1
Badakhshan	21	15	6
Faryab	3	0	3
Farah	2	0	2
Baghlan	2	0	2
Saripul	4	0	4
Balkh	4	2	2
Hilmand	15	0	15
Hirat	2	0	2
Kandahar	6	2	4
Kunar	4	3	1
Laghman	5	3	2
Nangarhar	15	11	4
Nimroz	2	0	2
Uruzgan	2	0	2
Takhar	2	0	2
Ghor	3	0	3
Badghis	3	0	3
<b>Total Verifiers</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>

## 2. Results

GLE was verified and reported from Badakhshan, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. The areas reported by the eradication verifiers were checked with satellite imageries, ground pictures and tracking files. Table 2 shows the area of Governor-led poppy eradication along with quality of eradication, eradication method, number of fields and villages covered at province level. Detail of GLE by districts is given in *Annex 2*.

**Table 2: GLE by province, 2018**

Province	No. of Eradicated fields reported	No. of villages eradication reported	Eradication Verified (ha) (>=80%)	Eradication Verified (ha) (<80%)	Total eradication (ha)	Eradication Method
Kunar	336	8	7	0	7	Stick
Nangarhar	2,769	86	287	14	301	Stick
Kandahar	42	7	13	0	13	Tractors
Badakhshan	1,738	51	65	20	85	Stick
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,885</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>406</b>	

A total of **406 hectares** of poppy eradication were verified by physical measurement of **4,885** poppy fields in **152** villages of **4** provinces in Afghanistan (**371 ha more than 80% + 34 ha less than 80%**). Quality checks using satellite image was carried out to authenticate the eradication area reported by verifiers in all the four provinces. There was a decrease of **85%** in eradication verified this year compared to last year. In 2017 the total verified GLE was **750 hectares** in **6,911** poppy fields, **320** villages and **14** provinces.

**Table 3: GLE and percentage change, 2017-2018**

Province	Eradication Verification (ha) 2017	Eradication Verification (ha) 2018	% Change
Badakhshan	269	85	-218%
Balkh	25	0	NA
Kabul	27	0	NA
Kapisa	3	0	NA
Badghis	55	0	NA
Kandahar	48	13	-258%
Nangarahar	204	301	32%
Laghman	23	0	NA
Nimroz	14	0	NA
Hirat	23	0	NA
Ghor	14	0	NA
Jawzjan	0.3	0.0	NA
Takhar	15	0	NA
Kunar	31	7	-363%
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>-85%</b>

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

### **3. Verification of eradication using satellite imageries:**

- **Verification of over reporting.**

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, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces were checked with satellite imageries. The verification with satellite imageries was supported with ground pictures and GPS tracking collected by verifier during eradication operations. Since 2013 the eradicated fields are tracked using GPS which provides the location and shape of the eradicated fields. These tracks have facilitated identification of eradicated poppy fields on satellite imageries.

- **Verification of eradication quality**

The quality of eradication (partially eradicated fields) reported by surveyors was verified using satellite imagery and ground pictures of eradicated fields. The field verifiers report the percentage of each eradicated field on the ground. The satellite imageries acquired immediately after the date of eradication provides differences in tone and texture of eradicated and standing poppy which is used to verify the quality of eradication within each field. This year the eradication is reported separately for more than 80% of each field eradicated and less than 80% of the field eradicated.

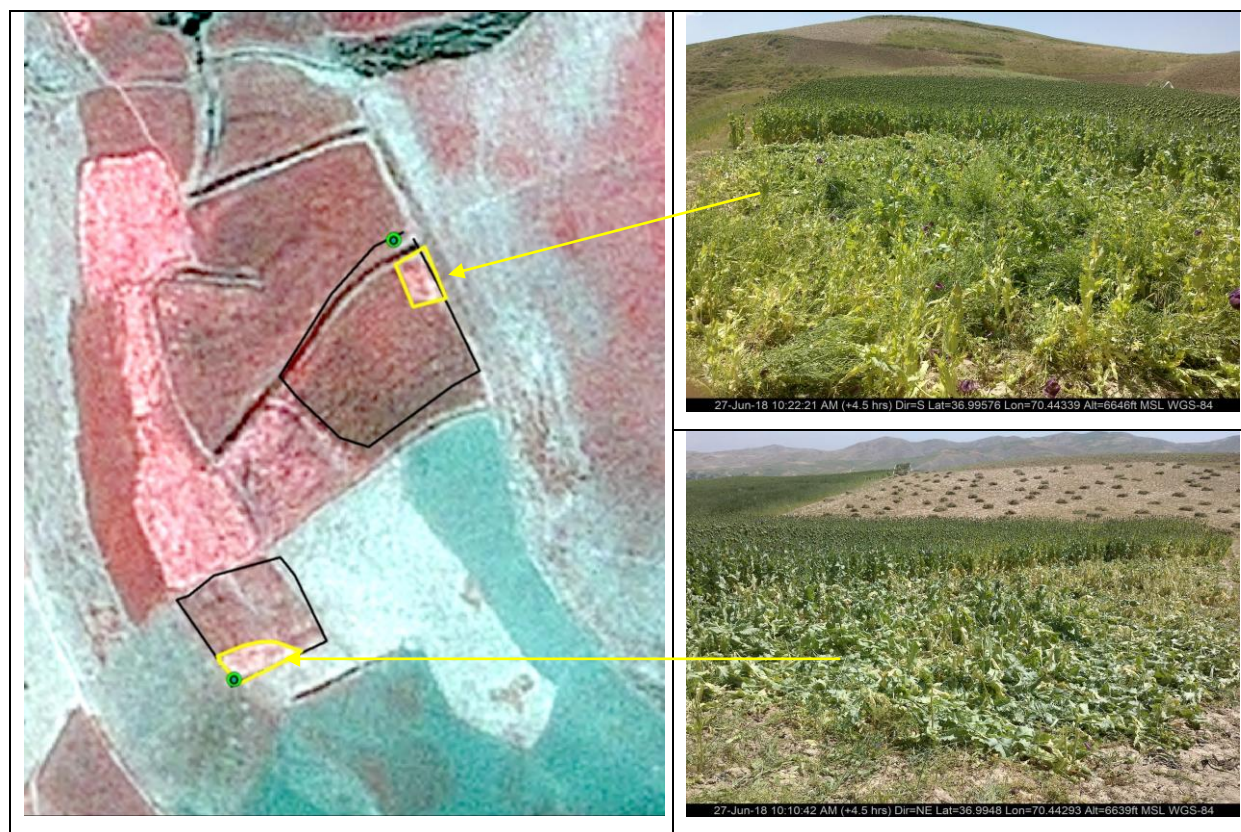
In 2018, the eradication was mainly carried out manually with sticks in Badakhshan, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces and tractors in Kandahar province.



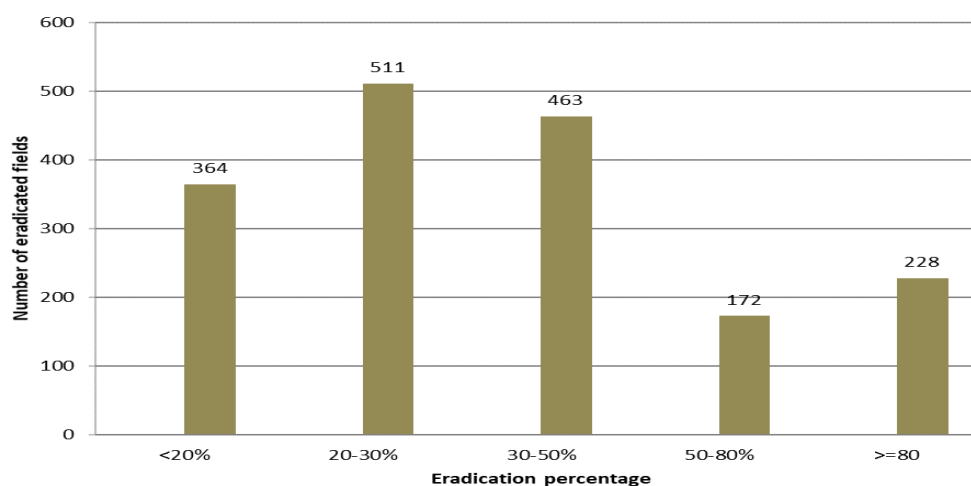
## Badakhshan province:

- The eradication quality and area reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imagery and scrutinizing the eradicated field report, checking the area measurement calculations and field photographs and over reporting to the extent of 201 hectares was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Badakhshan province has been corrected to 85 hectares. The quality of eradication was very poor. 65 hectares of eradicated fields were less than 80% in each field. Only 20 hectares were confirmed to be eradicated more than 80% in each field.

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



- Figure 3: Percentage of poppy eradication in each field by number of fields in Badakhshan.**

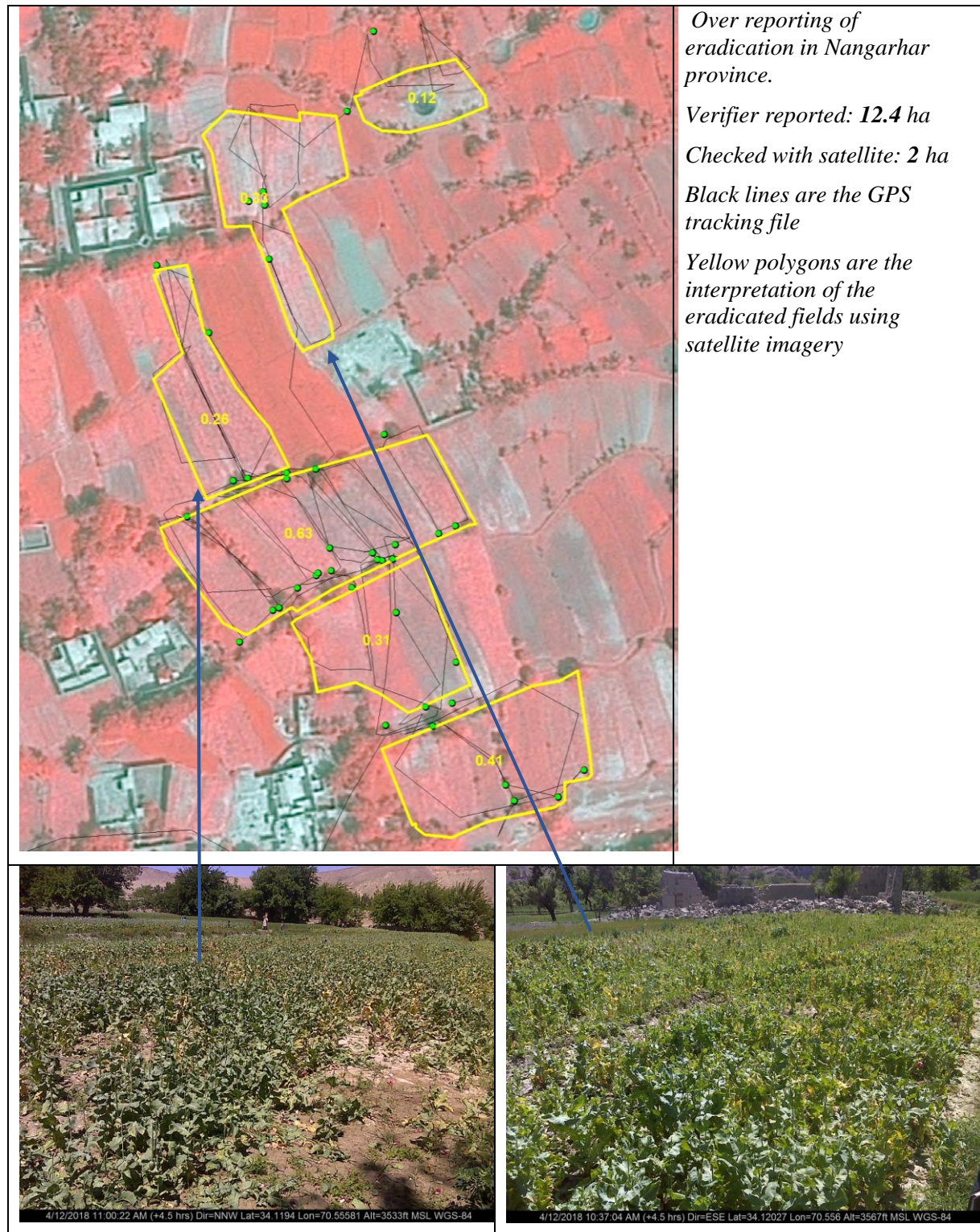




## Nangarhar Province:

Eradication reported by verifiers was checked with satellite imageries and an over-reporting to the extent of 353 hectares were confirmed. The final eradication figures in Nangarhar province has been corrected to 301 hectares.

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

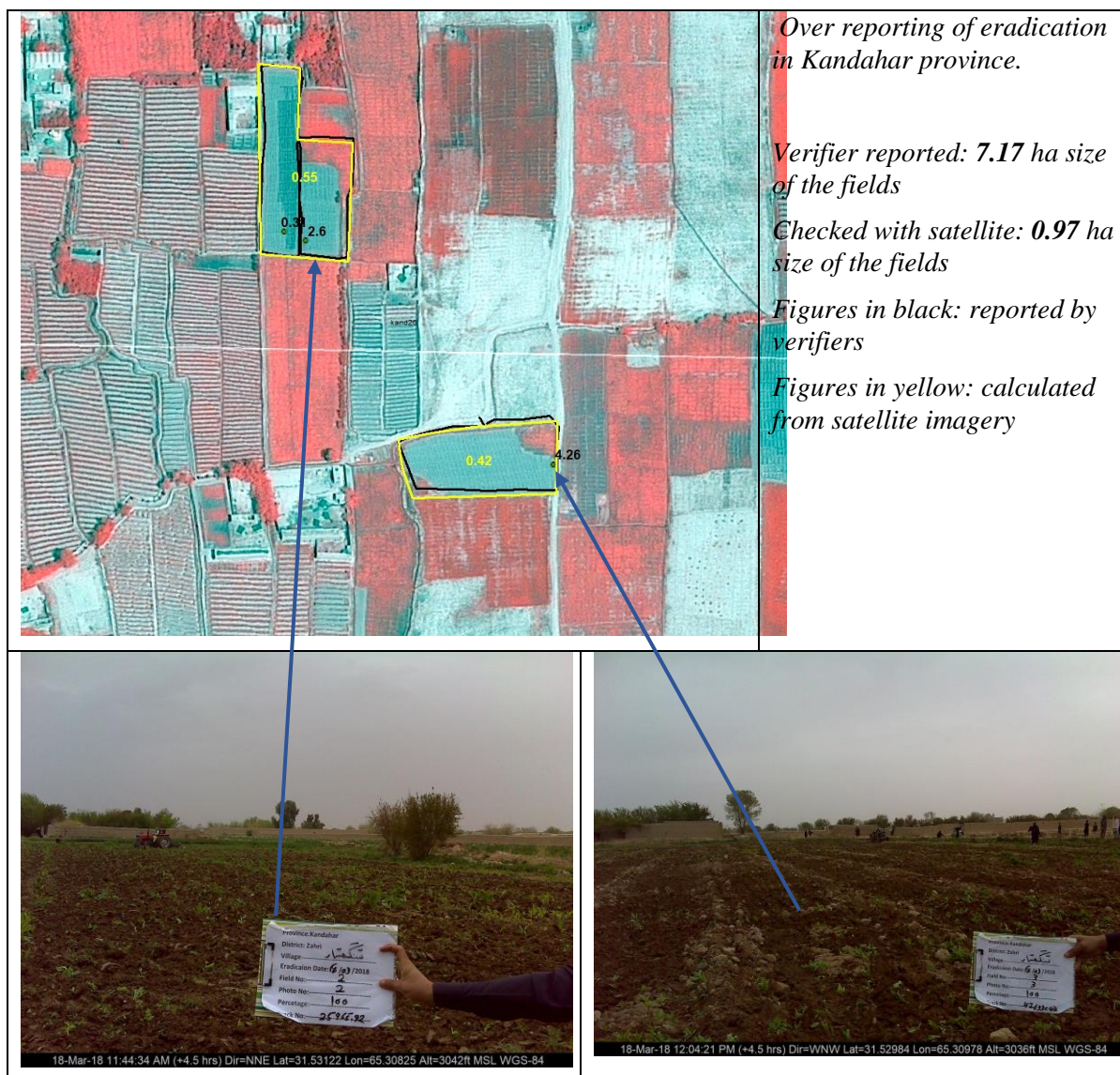




## Kandahar Province:

The total eradication reported from field was 25 ha and the final eradication figures has been corrected to 13 hectares after checks with satellite imageries.

The snap shots shows over-reporting of eradication reported by verifiers in Kandahar province:

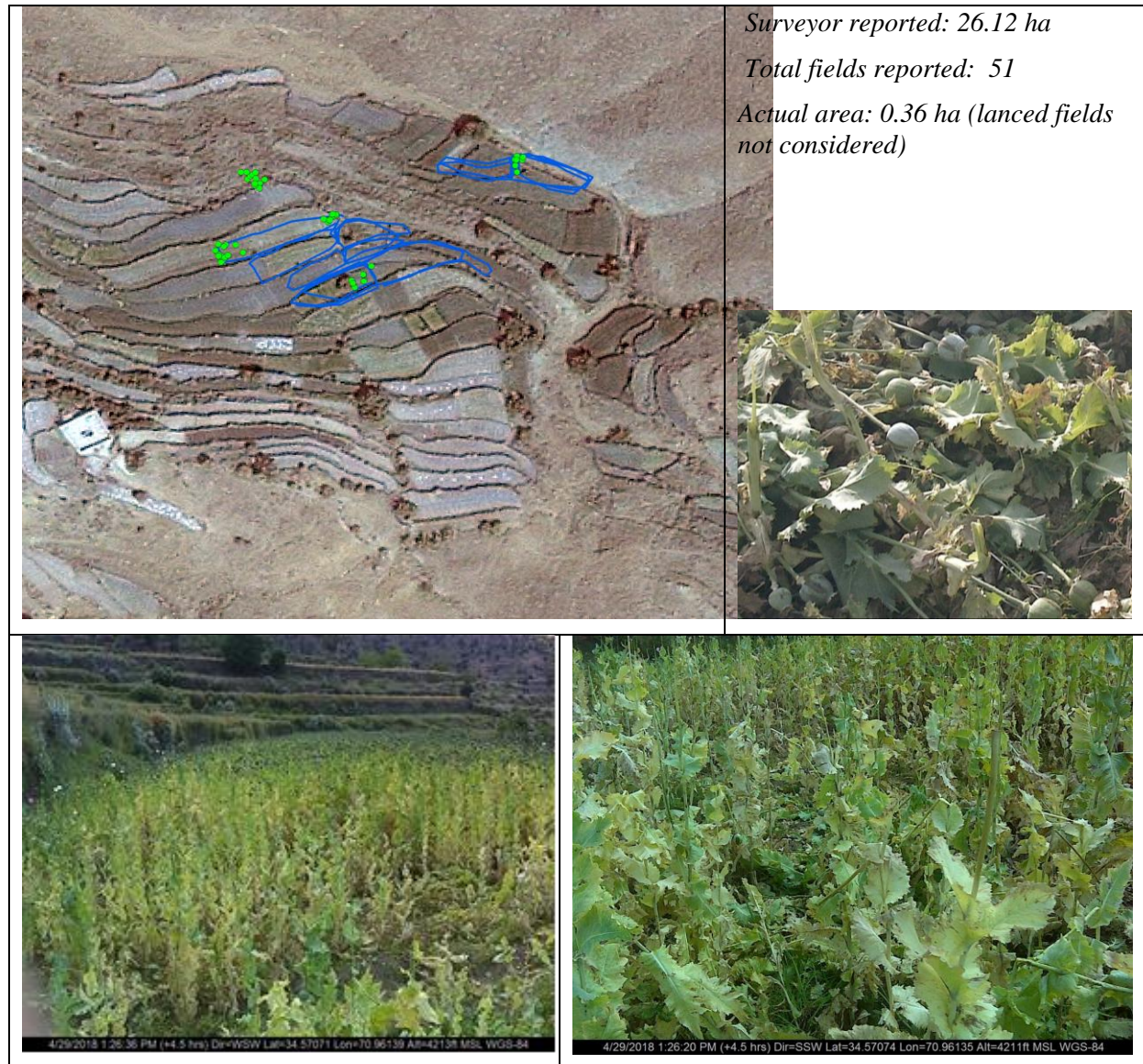




## Kunar Province:

A total of 136 ha eradication was reported by verifiers, however most of the eradication were carried out during lancing stage which is not considered. The final eradication figures have been corrected to 7 hectares after checks with satellite imageries and field pictures.

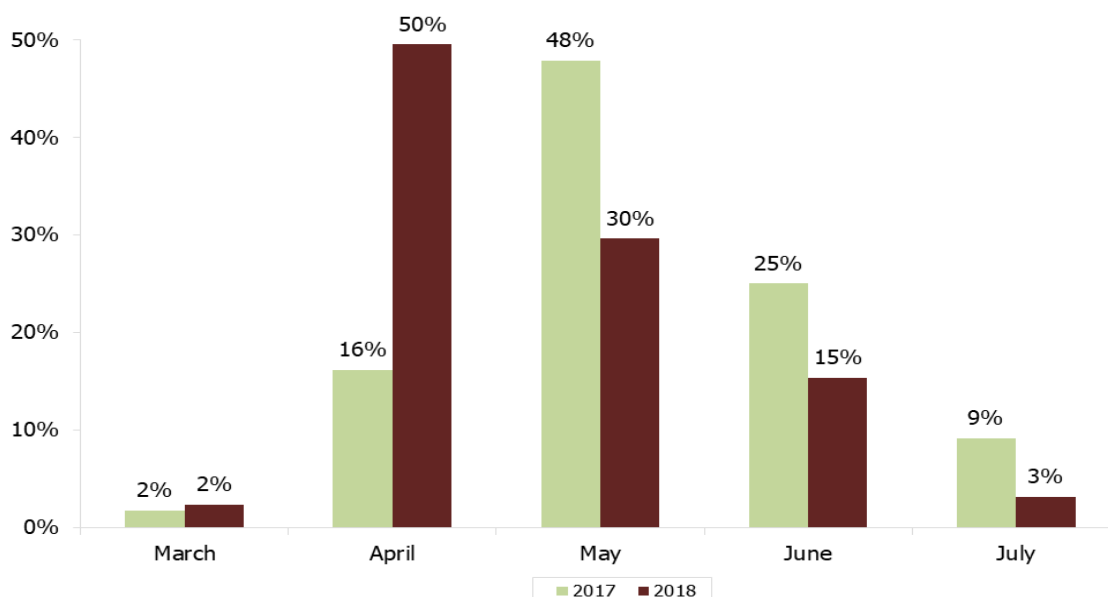
The snap shots showing over-reporting and lanced fields eradicated:



## 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. **80% of** eradication was carried out in month of April and May in 2018.

**Figure 1: Percentage of GLE by month in 2017 and 2018**



**Table 4: Start and end dates of GLE, 2018**

Region	Province	Eradication Start Date	Eradication End Date	Eradication (ha)	Remarks
Central	Kabul	24-Apr-2018	10-May-2018	0	All eradication in lanced field
East	Kunar	21-Apr-2018	3-May-2018	7	Most of the eradication in lanced field
	Laghman	30-Apr-2018	4-May-2018	0	All eradication in lanced field
	Nangarhar	4-Apr-2018	5-Jun-2018	301	
South	Kandahar	7-Mar-2018	24-Apr-2018	13	
North	Balkh	8-May-2018	8-May-2018	0	All eradication in lanced field
North-east	Badakhshan	22-May-2018	4-Jul-2018	85	

## 5. Comparison of GLE in 2017 and 2018

*Major observations on eradication campaign in 2017 and 2018 are:*

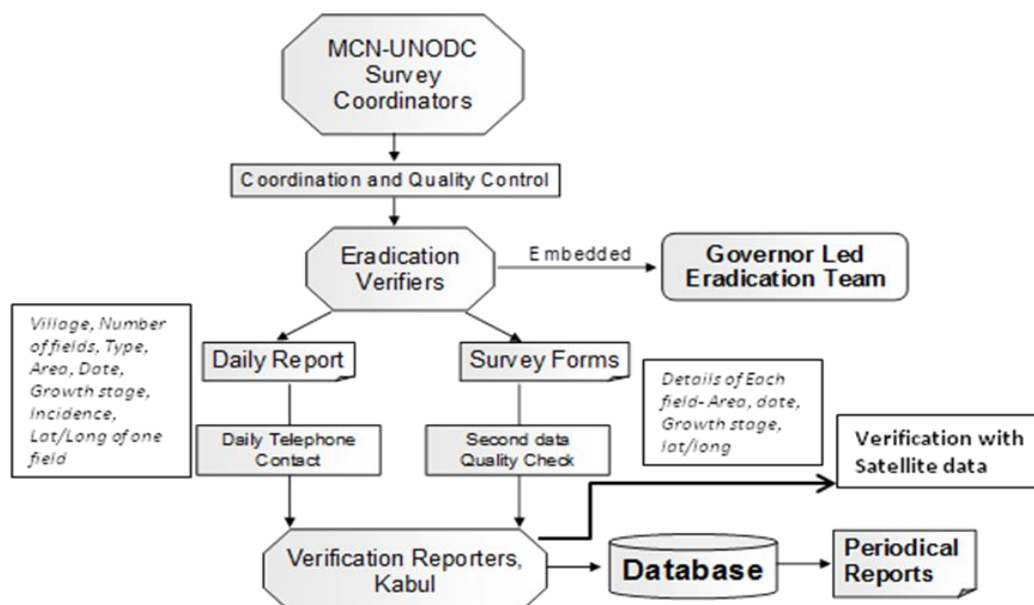
- Total poppy eradication carried out in 2018 was **85%** less than in 2017. This year the total GLE carried out was **406 hectares** in **4** provinces compared to **750 hectares** in **14** provinces in 2017.
- The eradication campaign has not been carried out in most of the major opium poppy cultivated provinces this year as well, due to continued poor security situation on ground.



## Annex 1

### Methodology:

#### Governor-led eradication verification



1. Eradication verifiers are part of the governor-led eradication teams.
2. The verifiers take measurements of each eradicated field with two different methods, one using pace length and the other using GPS tracking system, this provides the location, area and shape of the eradicated fields facilitating verification by satellite imageries.
3. Coordinates and photographs of all eradicated fields are collected by verifiers using GPS cameras.
4. The reported eradication figures by field verifiers are compiled at provincial centers and sent to Kabul weekly.
5. The reported figures from the field is verified using the field pictures, tracking files and satellite imageries. The area of eradicated fields is corrected for over-report/under-report.
6. Quality of eradication is assessed by verification using satellite imageries and field pictures. The quality of eradication is assessed separately for fields eradicated more than 80% and less than 80%.
7. The report on eradication is published by MCN/UNODC after verification by satellite imageries.
8. The verification survey does not cover self-eradication by the farmers.
9. Eradication of lanced fields are not considered.

## Annex 2:

### Governor-led poppy eradication by district, 2018

	DISTRICT	Eradication reported (ha)	No. of fields eradication reported	No. of villages eradication reported
Badakhshan	Argo	65	1372	38
	Darayam	20	366	13
<b>Badakhshan Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>51</b>
Kandahar	Zheray	13	42	7
<b>Kandahar Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>
Nangarhar	Achin	12	155	7
	Batikot	1	8	1
	Dehbala	11	113	7
	Nazyan	2	73	2
	Rodat	15	178	7
	Shinwar	5	79	2
	Chaparhar	31	235	6
	Khogyani	114	685	19
	Kot	13	243	7
	Kuzkunar	6	125	1
	Muhmand Dara	0	22	1
	Pachieragam	71	573	12
	Surkhrod	9	94	4
	Dara-i- noor	11	186	10
<b>Nangarhar Total</b>		<b>301</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>86</b>
Kunar	Shigal	4	215	6
	Narang	3	121	2
<b>Kunar Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>406</b>	<b>4,885</b>	<b>152</b>

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