



Afghanistan Poppy Eradication Verification



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 Element

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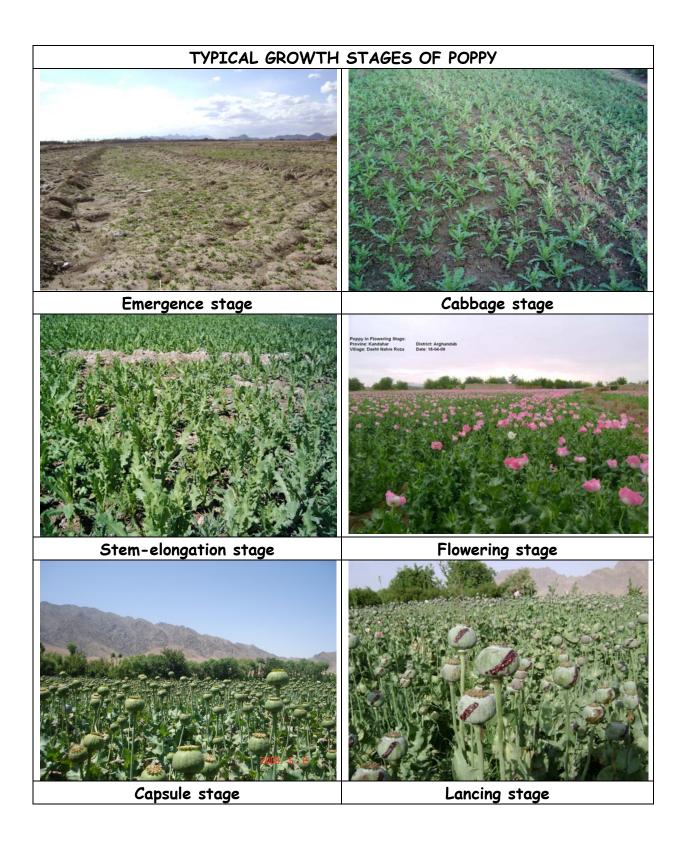
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Implementation of verification survey would not have been possible without dedicated work of field surveyors, who conduct verification survey often in extremely risky situation.

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Summary

- Since 2014, the opium eradication verification final report has been divided into two phases. The first phase report covered Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western regions where eradication operations concluded during end of May 2015. The second phase report is the final report of eradication verification covers all the regions.
- MCN & UNODC are joint partners to monitor and verify Governor-led eradication of poppy.
- In 2015 a total of **3,760 hectares** of Governor-led eradication of poppy fields were verified in **12** provinces of Afghanistan namely Badakhshan, Day Kundi, Farah, Hilmand, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar and Uruzgan. Compared to last year, there was an increase of **40%** in Governor-led eradication of poppy fields in Afghanistan.
- The highest poppy eradication was verified in Hilmand province (1,747 hectares), showing an increase of 122% than the eradication carried out last year in the same province (787 hectares).
- Last year (2014) a total of **2,692 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in **17** provinces in Southern, Western, Eastern, Northern, North-eastern and Central regions.
- There was decrease of 12% in poppy eradication compared to last year in Badakhshan province.
- Eradication did not take place in Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Hirat, Badghis, Kabul, Kapisa and Zabul provinces this year.
- Quality control of eradication verification was carried out using satellite data in Badakhshan, Hilmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Sar-e-Pul, Nimroz and Uruzgan provinces. Final figures for eradication in these provinces are confirmed after checking with high resolution satellite imageries supported by ground pictures with GPS tracking files. For the other provinces namely Daykundi, Kunar, Laghman and Farah, the quality checks for eradication verification was made by scrutinizing the survey forms, checking the area measurement calculations and with the help of field photographs.
- Farmers' resistance against poppy eradication operations were manifested in different ways such as direct attacks on eradication team, mine explosions and flooding fields. Since the start of eradication operations this year 5 persons (3 ALP, One ANA and one ANP) were killed and 18 persons were injured (7 ANA, 3 ALP, 2 ANP and 6 Farmer).
- This year the security incidence are less compare to previous years. This is due to efforts of MCN towards better coordination with the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior. The eradication is being carried out in the vicinity of military operations in Hilmand and Kandahar provinces and because of this strategy the resistance against eradication is diverted towards military operations.

1. Introduction

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

Governor-led eradication activities are envisaged in all poppy cultivating provinces. The verifiers in the field were recruited and selected jointly by MCN/UNODC survey coordinators. Two MCN reporters were assigned to collect the daily reports from the field verifiers and two MCN staff members were assigned to verify eradication with satellite imageries and to prepare weekly eradication report under UNDOC supervision as part of capacity building activity. A team of MCN/UNODC was deputed to regional offices to supervise the recruitment, training and coordination activities.

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 **105** eradication verifiers were trained on eradication verification techniques. Out of the 105 trained verifiers 88 verifiers were deployed in the field based on eradication plan received from Governors. The remaining 17 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 Deployed	No. of Verifiers standby
Hilmand	29	0
Kandahar	9	5
Nimroz	2	0
Farah	4	2
Hirat	0	6
Kunar	4	0
Laghman	3	0
Nangarhar	7	0
Uruzgan	5	0
Zabul	0	4
Badakhshan	23	0
Takhar	2	0
Total Verifiers	88	17

2. Results

Governor-led poppy eradication was verified and reported from Badakhshan, Day Kundi, Farah, Nimroz, Hilmand, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar and Uruzgan 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 Governor-led eradication by districts is given in *Annex 2*.

Table 2: Governor-led poppy eradication by province, 2015

Province	Eradication verified (ha)	No. of eradicated fields reported	No. of villages eradication reported	
Badakhshan*	1246	7,424	214	
Daykundi	5	38	2	
Farah	52	108	5	
Hilmand*	1747	2,358	208	
Kandahar *	396	592	73	
Kunar	9	41	7	
Laghman	7	43	3	
Nangarahar*	137	496	42	
Nimroz*	oz* 40 58		11	
Sar-e-Pul*	33	55	8	
Takhar	12 32		2	
Uruzgan*	75	449	44	
Grand Total	3,760	11,694	619	

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

In 2015, **3,760 hectares** of poppy eradication were verified by physical measurement of **11,694** poppy fields in **619** villages of **12** provinces in Afghanistan. Quality checks using high resolution satellite image was carried out to authenticate the eradication area reported by verifiers in Badakhshan, Hilmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz and Uruzgan provinces. There is an increase of **40%** in eradication verified this year compared to last year. In 2014 the total verified Governor-led eradication was **2,692 hectares** in **10,221** poppy fields, **480** villages and **17** provinces.

^{*} Provinces checked with satellite imagery.

Table 3: Governor-led poppy eradication and percentage change, 2014-2015

Province	Eradication Verification (ha) 2014	Eradication Verification (ha) 2015	% Change
Badakhshan	1411	1246	-12%
Daykundi	6	5	-7%
Faryab	10	0	-100%
Farah	0	52	100%
Ghor	8	0	-100%
Hilmand	787	1747	122%
Kandahar	68	396	482%
Kunduz	9	0	-100%
Kunar	75	9	-88%
Laghman	1	7	424%
Nangarahar	34	137	302%
Nimroz	0	40	100%
Uruzgan	163	75	-54%
Kapisa	26	0	-100%
Balkh	35	0	-100%
Baghlan	3	0	-100%
Saripul	43	33	-23%
Takhar	1	12	1100%
Zabul	12	0	-100%
Grand Total	2,692	3,760	40%

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

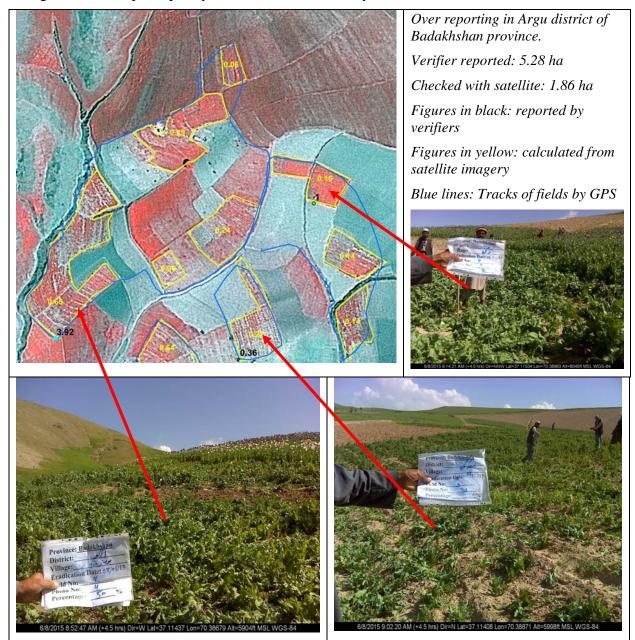
3. Quality control of eradication by using satellite imageries

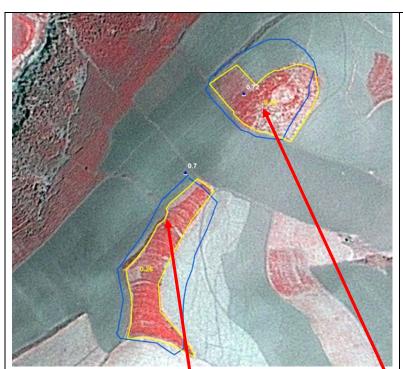
Cross checking of eradication verification reported by field verifiers was carried out using high resolution satellite images. UNODC procured the satellite images based on the field coordinates recorded by verifiers in the eradicated poppy fields to validate authenticity of the reported eradication area. The Governor-led eradication in Badakhshan, Hilmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Saripul and Uruzgan 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 last three years 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.

Badakhshan province:

• Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and an over reporting to the extent of **1590** hectares was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Badakhshan province has been corrected to **1,246** hectares. The quality of eradication was very poor in Badakhshan province. The average of percentage eradication in the total poppy fields (7,424) was less than 55%.

The below snap shots show cases of over reporting by verifiers confirmed with satellite images as well as poor quality of eradication carried by eradication team:





Over reporting in Argu district of Badakhshan province.

Verifier reported: 1.42 ha

Checked with satellite: 0.51 ha

Figures in white: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from

satellite imagery

Blue lines: Tracks of fields by GPS





Hilmand province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and an over reporting to the extent of 332 hectares was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Hilmand province has been corrected to 1,747 hectares.

The below snap shots show cases of over reporting and correct reporting by verifiers confirmed with satellite images:



Over reporting in Garamser district of Hilmand province.

Date of eradication: 5 March 2015

Verifier reported: 8.15 ha

Checked with satellite: 1.89 ha

Figures in blue: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from

satellite imagery

Blue lines: Tracks of fields by GPS



Over reporting in Garamser district of Hilmand province.

Date of eradication: 7 March 2015

Verifier reported: 3.01 ha

Checked with satellite: 1.5 ha

Figures in blue: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from

satellite imagery



The satellite imageries showing **poor quality of eradication** in Hilmand province:



Correct reporting in Lashkargah district of Hilmand province.

Date of eradication: 1 March

2014

Verifier reported: 1.04 ha

Checked with satellite: 1.06 ha

Figures in blue: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from satellite imagery

Blue lines: Tracks of fields by

GPS

Kandahar Province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and an over reporting to the extent of 244 hectares was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Kandahar province has been corrected to 396 hectares.

The below snap shot is the example of over reporting by verifiers confirmed with satellite image:



Over reporting in Zhari district of Kandahar province.

Date of eradication: 5 March 2015

Verifier reported: 10.13 ha
Checked with satellite: 5.99 ha
Figures in blue: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from

satellite imagery

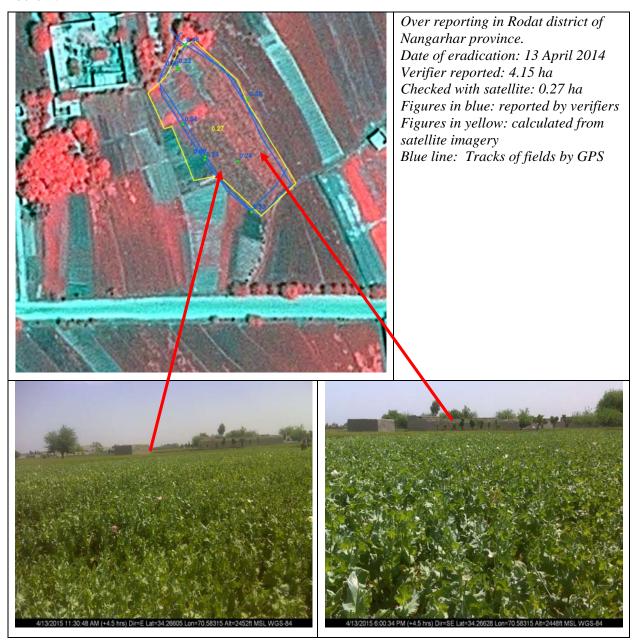
Blue line: Tracks of fields by GPS



Nangarhar province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and an over reporting to the extent of 20 hectares was confirmed. The final eradication figures in Nangarhar province has been corrected to 137 hectares.

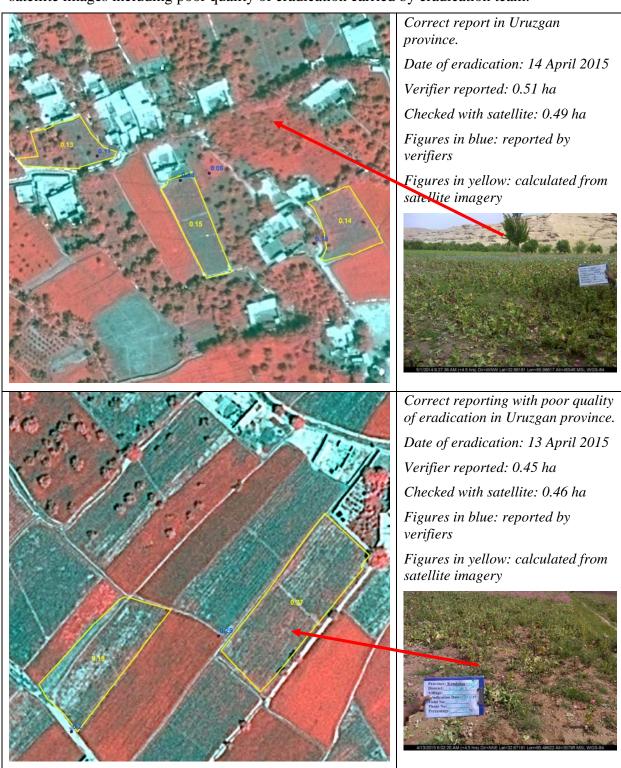
The snap shots showing the over reporting by the verifiers on satellite imageries are shown below:



Uruzgan province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries in Uruzgan province. The final eradication figures in Uruzgan province is 75 hectares. Eradication was mainly carried out with sticks and the final eradication area was calculated based on field measurement with satellite imagery and quality of eradication reported by verifiers. Most of the fields were eradicated partially.

The below snap shots are few examples of correct reporting by verifiers confirmed with satellite images including poor quality of eradication carried by eradication team:



Nimroz Province:

Eradication reported by verifiers were checked with satellite imageries and to the extent of 7 hectares of over reporting is confirmed. The final eradication figures in Nimroz province has been corrected to 40 hectares.

The snap shots showing over reporting and poor quality of eradication by verifiers in Nimroz province:



Over reporting with poor quality of eradication in Uruzgan province.

Date of eradication: 18 March

2015

Verifier reported: 2.15 ha

Checked with satellite: 1.62 ha

Figures in blue: reported by

verifiers

Figures in yellow: calculated from satellite imagery





4. Methods of Poppy Eradication

Methods of Governor-led poppy eradication include tractor and manual eradication (using sticks, blade and uprooting by hand). 62% of the Governor-led eradication was carried out with tractor and 38% by manual in 2015. Majority of the manual eradication has been in Badakhshan province.

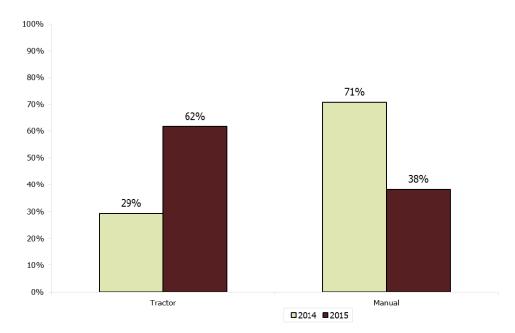


Figure 1: Percentage of poppy eradication by different methods in 2014 and 2015

5. Timing of Poppy Eradication

The timing of eradication of opium is when poppy is at cabbage stages since poppy plants can be easily recognized at this stage. However, the stick eradication is not affective during the cabbage-stage. 36% of eradication was carried out in month of March and June and 15% of eradication was carried out in month of April 2015.

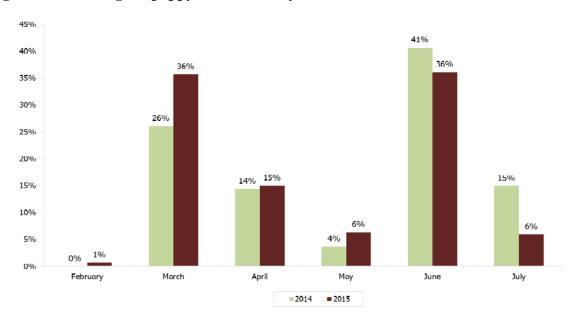
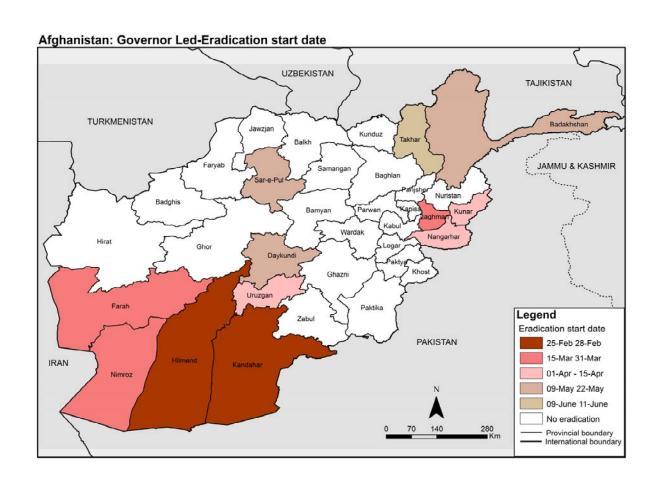


Figure 2: Percentage of poppy eradication by month in 2014 and 2015

Table 4: Start and end dates of Governor-led eradication, 2015

Region	Province	Eradication Start Date	Eradication End Date	Eradication (ha)
	Kunar	6-Apr-2015	21-Apr-2015	9
East	Laghman	31-Mar-2015	9-Apr-2015	7
	Nangarhar	2-Apr-2015	14-May-2015	137
North	Sari pul	9-May-2015	11-May-2015	33
North-eastern	Takhar	9-Jun-2015	11-Jun-2015	12
North-eastern	Badakhshan	16-May-2015	13-Jul-2015	1246
	Day Kundi	22-May-2015	24-May-2015	5
South	Hilmand	27-Feb-2015	19-Apr-2015	1747
South	Kandahar	25-Feb-2015	19-Apr-2015	396
	Uruzgan	9-Apr-2015	16-Apr-2015	75
West	Farah	25-Mar-2015	10-Apr-2015	52
vv est	Nimroz	16-Mar-2015	20-Mar-2015	40

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

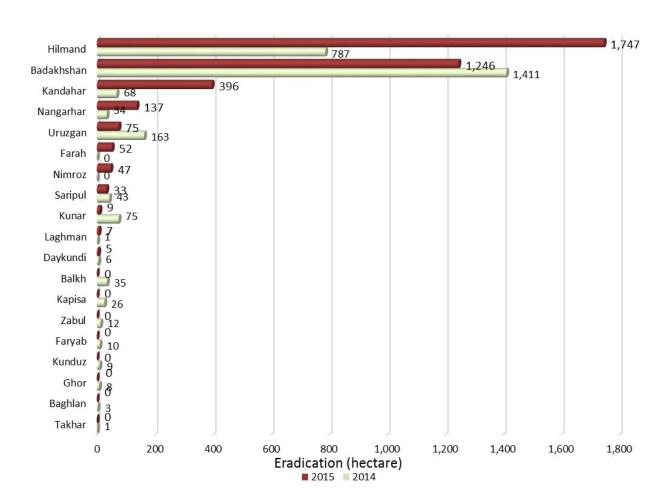


6. Comparison of Governor-led poppy eradication in 2014 and 2015

Major observations on eradication campaign in 2014and 2015 are:

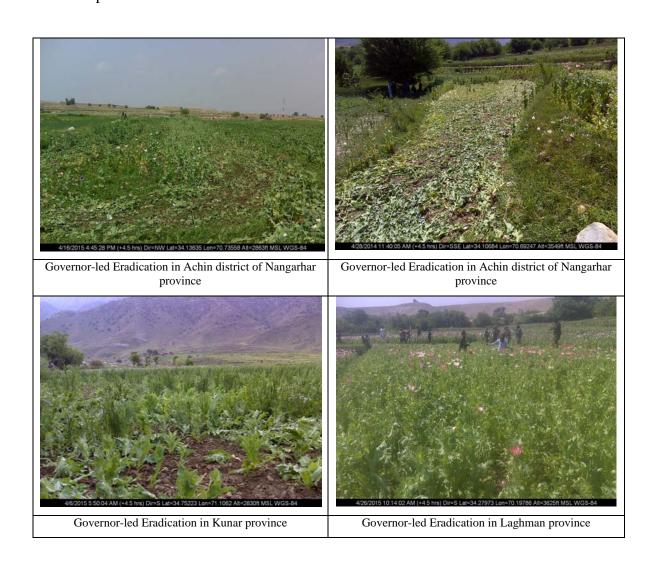
- Total poppy eradication carried out in 2015 was 40% more than in 2014. This year the total Governor-led poppy eradication carried out was 3,760 hectares in 12 provinces compared to 2,692 hectares in 17 provinces in 2014.
- The Governor-led poppy eradication campaign was started early compare to last year.
- This year Governor-led poppy eradication campaign started on 25 February in Kandahar province and 27 February in Hilmand province, while in 2014 the eradication activities were began on 16 April in Kandahar province and 03 March in Hilmand province.
- Since last two years the governor-led poppy eradication campaigns were not carried out in Kabul province (Central region) and Badghis and Ghor provinces (Western region). The eradication was also not carried out in Baghlan and Faryab provinces this year.
- This year, the number of security incidents (farmers and AGE resistance) during the eradication campaign was much less than the years before. The number of fatalities was less as compared to 2014. This year a total of 5 people were killed during poppy eradication campaign against 13 in 2014.

Figure 3: Governor-led Eradication in 2014 and 2015 (hectare)



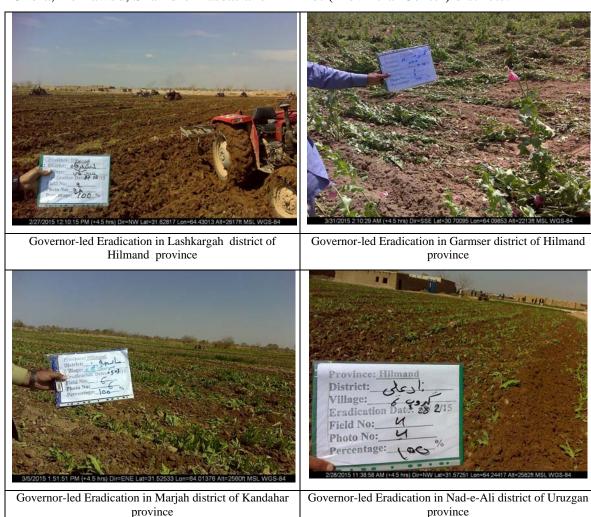
Eastern region (Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar):

- *Nangarhar:* A total of **137 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Achin, Batikot, Dehbala, Khogyani, Muhamnad Dara, Rodat and Shinwari districts.
- *Laghman:* A total of **7 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Mehtarlam and Qarghayi districts.
- *Kunar:* A total of **9 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Sarkani, and Watapur districts.



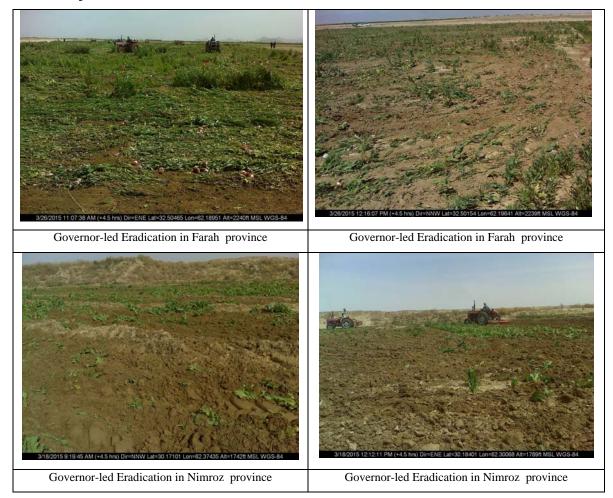
Southern region (Day Kundi, Hilmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul):

- Day Kundi: A total of **5 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Kejran district.
- *Hilmand:* A total of **1,747 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Garm Ser, Khanishin, Lashkargah (Provincial Center), Marjah, Musa Qala, Nad-Ali (Marja), Naher-i-Saraj and Nawa-i-Barukzai districts.
- *Kandahar:* A total of **396 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Arghandab, Maiwand, Panjwayi and Zheray districts.
- *Uruzgan:* A total of **75 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Chora, Dehrawud, Shahid-e-Hassas and Tirinkot (Provincial Center) districts.



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

- Farah: A total of **52 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Farah (Provincial Center) and Pushtrod districts.
- *Nimroz:* A total of **40 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Charburjak district.



Central region (Kabul):

• Governor-led poppy eradication campaigns were not carried out in Central region.

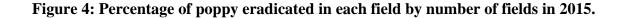
Northern region (Baghlan, Saripul, Faryab, Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan):

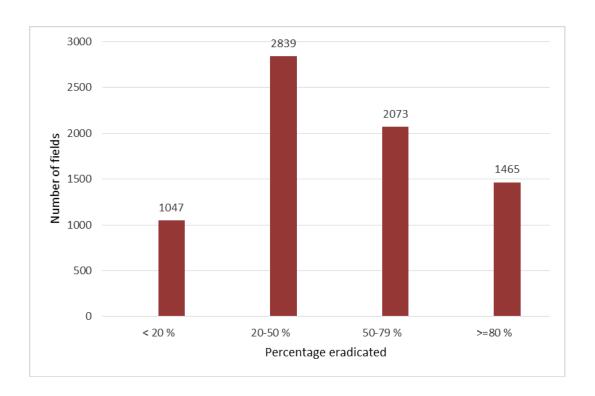
- Saripul: A total of **33 hectares** of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Sayed district of Saripul province.
- The eradication has not carried out this year in Baghlan, Faryab and Balkh provinces.



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

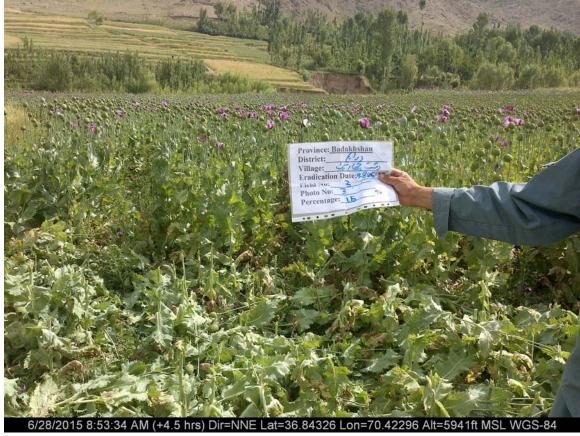
• Badakhshan: A total of 1,246 hectares of Governor-led poppy eradication were verified in Arghanjkhwa, Argo, Daryem, Jorm, Keshem, Khash and Teshkan districts. The eradication was mainly carried out with stick during cabbage, stem-elongation and flowering stages. Since last three years the quality of eradication has been very poor in most of the eradicated fields. Out of 7,424 poppy fields that were eradicated, the verifiers reported less than 50% in 3886 poppy fields. The average of percentage eradication in the total poppy fields (7,424) was less than 55%.







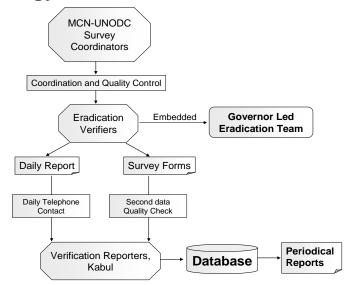




Example of poor quality eradication in Daryam and Argu districts of Badakhshan province

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 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.
- 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, 2015

Province	District	Eradication verified (ha)	No. of fields eradication reported	No. of villages eradication reported
	Arghankkhwa	9	12	2
	Argo	761	3568	86
	Darayem	72	852	42
Badakhshan	Jorm	7	25	5
	Keshem	118	1375	25
	Khash	20	248	11
	Teshkan	258	1344	43
Badakhshan Total		1,246	7,424	214
Daykundi	Kajran	5	38	2
Daykundi Total	Fareh (Brazilia sial Caratan)	5	38	2
Farah	Farah (Provincial Center)	7	17	2
E D. C. 4.1	Pushtrod	45	91	3
Farah Total	Carraga	52	108	5
	Garmser	283	176	29
	Khanashin	163	170 529	30
	Lashkargah	413 389	529	29 38
Hilmand	Marjah Musaqalah	389 84	512 197	38 20
Пішапи				_
	Nad-e-Ali	133	321	22
	Nahr-e-Saraj	45	116	11
	Nawa-e-Barakzaiy	237	337	29
Hilmand Total		1,747	2,358	208
	Arghandab	11	4	1
Kandahar	Maywand	144	173	16
	Panjwayi	72	133	21
	Zheray	180	282	35
Kandahar Total		396	592	73
Kunar	Sarkani	8	23	3
	Watapur	1	18	4
Kunar Total		9	41	7
Laghman	Mehtarlam	0	5	1
Laghman Total	Qarghayi	7 7	38	2
Lagnman Total	Achin	38	43 143	3 12
	Achin Batikot	38	27	12
	Dehbala	30	60	4
Nangarhar	Khogyani	17	60	8
	Muhmand Dara	5	25	3
	Rodat	18	69	11
	Shinwar	26	112	3
Nangarhar Total		137	496	42
Nimroz	Charburjak	40	58	11
Nimroz Total	,	40	58	11
Sar-e-Pul	Sayad	33	55	8
Sar-e-Pul Total		33	55	8
Takhar	Rostaq	12	32	2
TakharTotal		12	32	2
	Chora	4	45	4
	Dehrawud	9	135	10
Uruzgan	Shahid-e-Hassas	12	78	8
	Tirinkot	51	191	22
Uruzgan Total		75	449	44
Grand Total		3,760	11,694	619

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

