

## Opium Survey Findings

Based on the 1999-2000 survey and reflecting trends of previous years, farmers re-planted poppy in areas once harvested or eradicated by government troops while attempting from two to three crops over the course of a growing season. Opium was interspersed with legitimate crops to avoid detection by the aerial survey. In addition, interval planting allowed the crop to mature at different periods, complicating the eradication planning process and making it difficult to determine the amount of poppy cultivated.

A total of 1,087.39 ha were cultivated. Some areas were replanted as many as 4 times. In addition, there were 8 ha cultivated prior to the traditional growing season (October – February) and 51.20 ha planted after the traditional growing season.

According to the survey, opium yield can be broken down as follows:

Low yield	5.0 - 9.9 kg/ha
Medium yield	10.0 -12.5 kg/ha
High yield	12.6 -17.5 kg/ha

Based on the above estimate, the average yield for 1999-2000 was 11.25 kg/ha.

## Base Opium Crop in 1999-2000

Province	Cultivated area (ha)
1. Chiang Mai	532.17
2. Mae Hong Son	245.19
3. Chiang Rai	154.28
4. Tak	86.00
5. Nan	18.91
6. Lampang	18.39
7. Phayao	15.01
8. Kampaengphet	6.91
9. Phitsanulok	2.92
10. Phetchabun	2.87
11. Phare	2.82
12. Loei	1.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,087.39</b>

## Key factors affecting opium yield

### 1. Crop fertility

Fertility is dependent on slope, sunlight, seed quality, weeding, application of water and fertilizer as well as overall weather conditions.

### 2. Crop density

Based on the ONCB survey, fields which averaged 25-40 opium plants per square meter will yield opium gum in the medium to high range.

### 3. Opium bulb size

The larger the diameter of the bulbs, the higher the yield.

### 4. Methodology

Farmers can increase yield by applying advanced agricultural techniques such as fertilizers, anti-fungal chemicals, herbicides and watering systems. Farmers who have received training in growing legitimate crops through government-sponsored projects frequently use their skills to improve the yield of their opium crop. Legitimate crops such as carrots and cabbages, which resemble opium from the air, are often interspersed in opium fields to avoid detection by ONCB's aerial survey. By planting poppy seeds at different intervals, farmers are

guaranteed a crop at any time during the eradication season. Furthermore, studies have shown that if disturbed, small opium plants will produce an increased number of poppy capsules. Over the past 10 years, the average opium field size has decreased significantly. This is both an indication of the effectiveness of the eradication campaign and a simple method used by farmers to avoid eradication. Increasingly, smaller fields are located on steep slopes in remote valleys and other inaccessible areas.

### Opium Measures

1 tae	= 2 mu
1 satang	= 2 salung
1 thab	= 2.5 satang
1 thab	= 8 mu
1 hong	= 3.5 thab
1 khan	= 4.2 hong
1 khan	= 112 mu
1 joi	= 10 khan
1 joi	= 1.6 kg
1 joi	= 42 tamlung
1 joi	= 140 thab
1 joi	= 1120 mu
1 joi	= 350 satang