

Opium in Kabul

While Kabul may be the stage for many large opium deals, relatively little actually comes through the province or is cultivated there. Still, it has shown the greatest increase in cultivation and production of any province since 2006. Production has soared by 1,198% since 2006. Cultivation had previously fluctuated greatly. Kabul Province has reported no security incidents related directly to opium farming in Afghanistan in the first quarter of 2007.

Opium Cultivation in Kabul Province						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2006-2007	% of Afghan Total
Hectares (ha)	282	0	80	500	525%	0.3%

A moderate increase in cultivation from 2006 was reported in Surobi District alone, where all of the eradication efforts have taken place as well. Five villages have reported some eradication over fifty-five fields.

Prices for opium have declined by over 18% since last year in Central Afghanistan, primarily due to over-supply. At present one kilogram of fresh opium can fetch US \$124, and one kilogram of dry opium sells for US \$167.

Kabul opium poppy cultivation details:

Type of cultivation: Irrigated and rain-fed

Cultivation level: Low

Planting time: October/Spring

Expected main harvest time: Late June