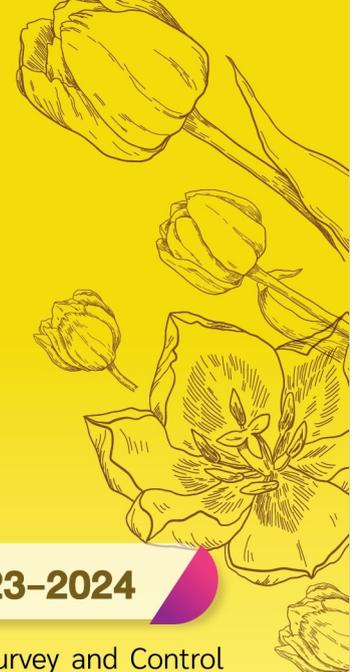




# SUMMARY OF THE OPIUM SURVEY AND ERADICATION IN THAILAND 2023-2024



## 01 Survey Results of illicit opium cultivation areas in 2023-2024

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), through the Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute, has conducted a survey on the illicit opium cultivation areas in 2023-2024. There were 156 illicit opium cultivation plots, which accounted for 11.39 hectares, a decrease from previous year, which was 21.44 hectares, equivalent to a 46.87 percent decrease. The plantations were found in 7 provinces and 22 districts, where Chiang Mai Province found the largest cultivation areas (6.38 hectares), followed by Tak Province (2.68 hectares), Chiang Rai Province (0.76 hectares), Nan Province (0.67 hectares), Mae Hong Son Province (0.61 hectares), Lampang Province (0.20 hectares), and Phetchabun Province (0.09 hectares).

The illicit opium cultivation areas  
**11.39** ha  
Were discovered  
in **2023-2024**

From  
**2022-2023**  
▼ **10.05** ha  
▼ **46.87** %

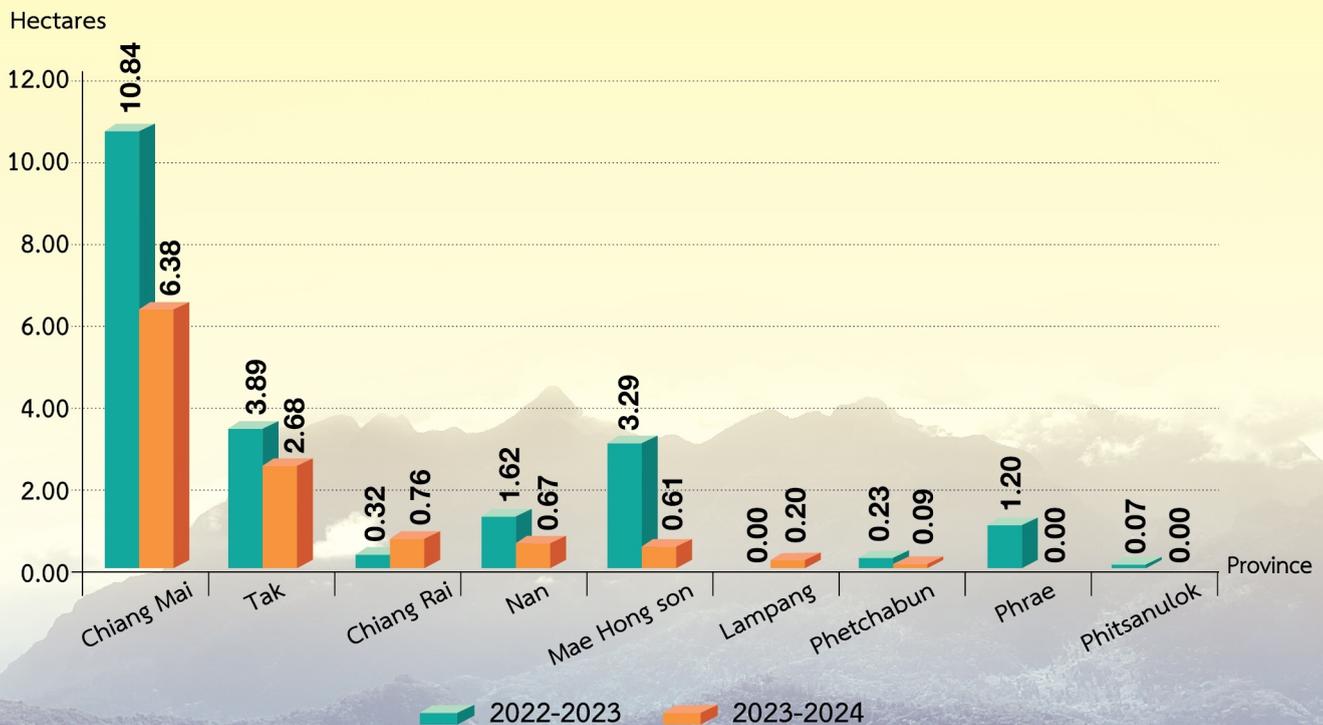


**The largest area**  
was found in Thung Khao Phuangs  
Sub-District, Chaing Dao  
District, Chiangmai  
**0.227** ha



**The Smallest area**  
found in Maenajon Sub-District,  
Mae Chaem District,  
Chiangmai  
**0.008** ha

Comparison Chart of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas  
by Province between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024



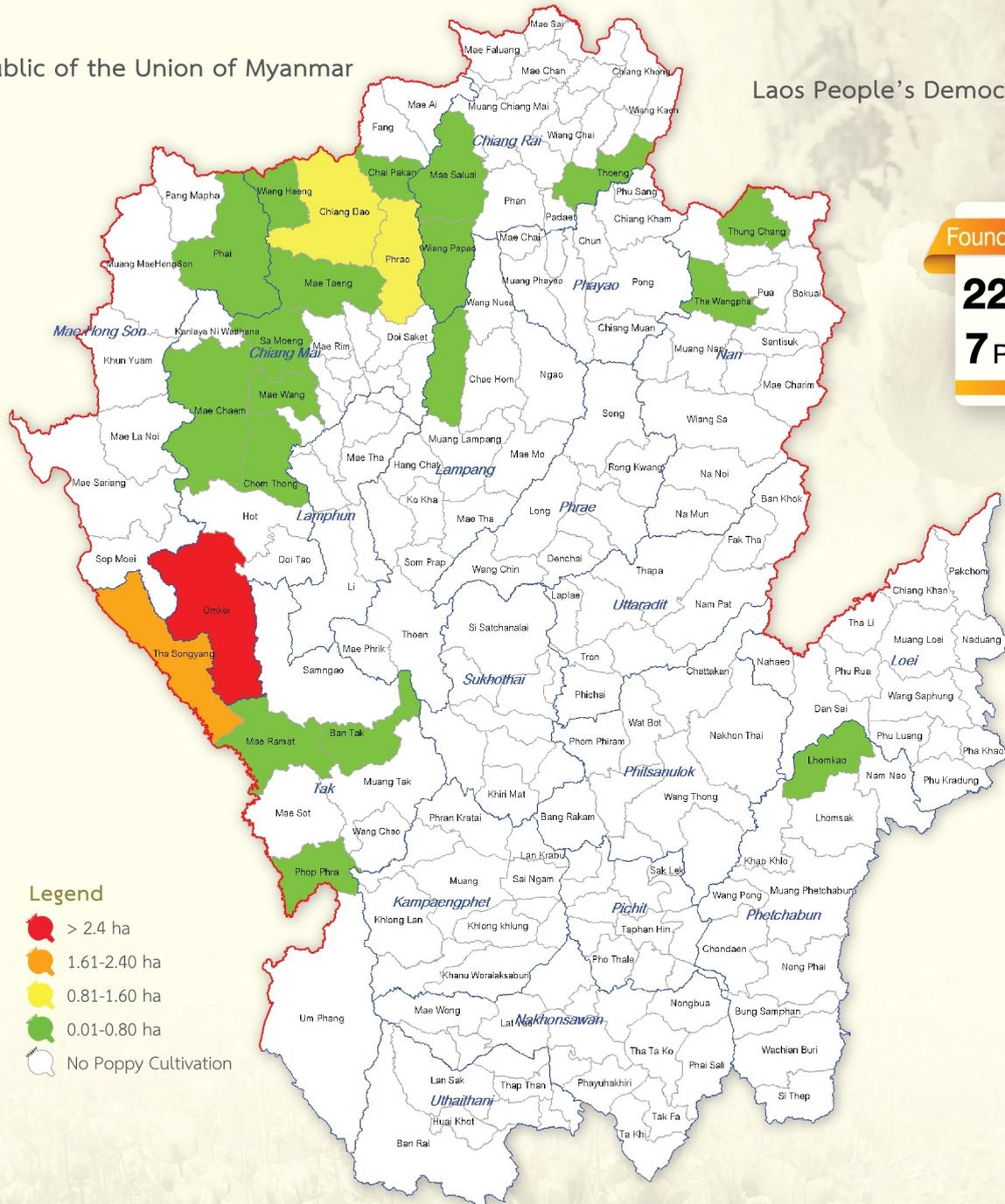
Remarks : 2023-2024 refers to opium cultivation season from August 2023 to May 2024.

# Map of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas

by district in  
**2023-2024**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Laos People's Democratic Republic



Found in  
**22** District  
**7** Province

### Legend

- > 2.4 ha
- 1.61-2.40 ha
- 0.81-1.60 ha
- 0.01-0.80 ha
- No Poppy Cultivation

**Table of Top 5 Districts with Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas in 2023 - 2024**

District	Province	Area (ha)
Om Koi	Chiang Mai	2.67
Tha Song Yang	Tak	2.27
Phrao	Chiang Mai	1.01
Chaing Dao	Chiang Mai	0.90
Pai	Mae Hong Son	0.61



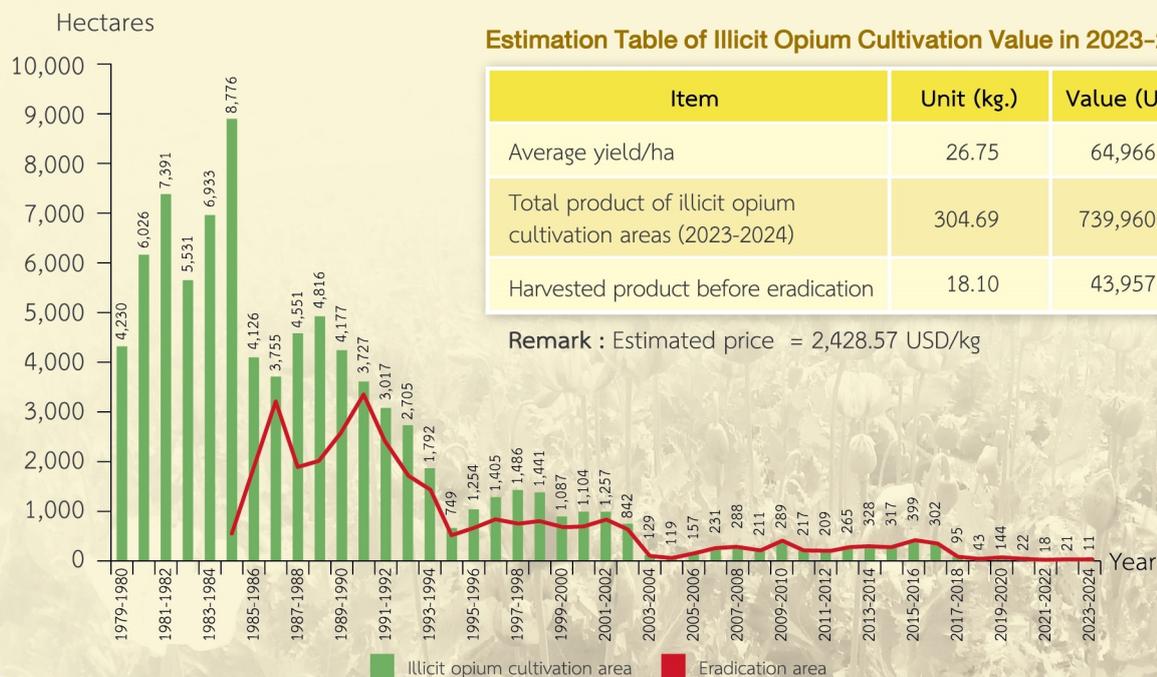
### Comparison Chart of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas by Province from 2017-2018 to 2023-2024

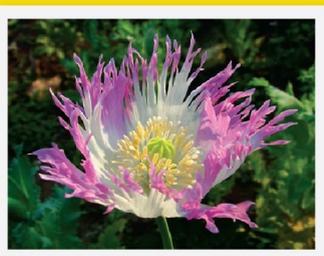
Rank	Province	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	Chiang Mai	26.26	18.16	12.91	11.88	9.12	10.84	6.38
2	Tak	60.67	22.38	7.00	6.49	3.16	3.89	2.68
3	Chiang Rai	2.81	0.32	0.99	0.28	1.65	0.32	0.76
4	Nan	0.52	0.32	0.82	1.30	0.89	1.62	0.67
5	Mae Hong son	3.41	1.32	1.22	2.31	2.11	3.29	0.61
6	Lampang	-	0.12	0.08	0.20	-	-	0.20
7	Phetchabun	-	-	-	-	-	0.23	0.09
8	Phrae	-	-	-	-	0.62	1.20	-
9	Phitsanulok	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.07	-
10	Kamphaengphet	1.28	0.24	-	-	0.17	-	-
<b>Total (ha)</b>		<b>94.95</b>	<b>42.86</b>	<b>23.02</b>	<b>22.46</b>	<b>17.77</b>	<b>21.44</b>	<b>11.39</b>



## 02 Results of the eradication

The Narcotic Corp Survey and Control Institute has sent the target areas for eradication, totaling 25 highland areas, to the Border Patrol Police Region 3, in order to proceed with the eradication of 156 illicit opium cultivation plots, equivalent to 11.39 hectares. The eradication covered all the target plots. However, it was found that some of the produce had been illegally harvested before the eradication.





03

### Reasons for the decrease of illicit opium cultivation areas in 2023–2024

1) The deterrence and suppression measures before the growing season, the use of social pressure, the development of society and community, and law enforcement all resulted in reduced illicit opium cultivation.

2) In 2023-2024, the rainfall volume was high due to heavy rains in July - October, causing delayed cultivation. As a result, only one generation of opium was cultivated, unlike normal cultivation where two generations of opium are grown. Illicit cultivations were found from November onwards in the areas such as Doi Sam Muen (November), Doi Pha Daeng (December), and Tha Songyang Huai Namyen (January).

3) Opium growers changed their behaviors by lowering the plot size in order to avoid the detection. In 2023-2024, the average size of opium plot was 0.07 hectares, down from the previous year's average of 0.08 hectares.

04

### Trend of Illicit Opium Cultivation in 2024–2025

Given the current situation of illicit opium cultivation, it is expected that the trend of illicit opium cultivation will be **stable** in 2024-2025. **However**, if measures are not put in place to deter opium cultivation before and after the growing season, to suppress the opium funding support group, to provide treatment and rehabilitation in the areas, and to furnish access to occupational promotion and alternative development, the trend of illicit opium cultivation is likely to **increase**.

The main reasons of current illicit opium cultivation are :

(1) Profit motive : Opium growers gained relatively high returns from illicit opium cultivation. The retail price of opium was as high as 100,000 - 134,000 Baht per “joint” . (1 joint is equal to 1.6 kilogram).

(2) The remoteness of the areas and the lack of opportunity of farmers living in rural areas, together with inaccessibility of government aid and monitoring.

(3) Recent changes in opium cultivation forms, such as hidden cultivation, in which 80 percent of opium was dispersed to smaller plots of less than 0.16 hectares each, growing multiple generations in the same field, growing in lines similar to vegetable cropping, and mixed cropping, making both aerial surveying and eradication difficult.

(4) The demand for raw opium among drug users persists.

Moreover, the situation of Thailand's illicit opium cultivation areas has decreased significantly during the past decade, from 328 hectares in the 2014–2015 growing season to only 11.39 hectares in the 2023–2024 growing season. The decrease in illicit opium cultivation areas in Thailand may result in an increase in opium smuggling from neighboring countries, as the price of raw opium and the need for drug users remain key factors.



Full Report

Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute

Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), Ministry of Justice.

Located No. 99/4, Area of the Chiang Mai Provincial Government Center, Chotana Road,

Chang Phueak Sub-District, Mueang District, Chiang Mai Province, 50300

Tel. : +66 5311 2468-9 Fax : 0 5311 2475