



# SUMMARY OF THE OPIUM SURVEY AND ERADICATION IN THAILAND: 2024/2025

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## Survey Results of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas in 2024/2025

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), by the Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute (NCSCI), has conducted a nationwide survey on the illicit opium cultivation areas in 2024/2025. It was found that there were 145 illicit opium cultivation plots, which accounted for 13.32 hectares. This represents an increase of 16.98 percent compared to the previous year, which recorded 11.39 hectares. The illicit plantations were found in 7 provinces and 21 districts, where Chiang Mai Province had the largest cultivation areas (8.69 hectares), followed by Tak Province (1.98 hectares), Mae Hong Son Province (1.05 hectares), Nan Province (0.96 hectares), Chiang Rai Province (0.44 hectares), Phrae Province (0.15 hectares), and Loei Province (0.06 hectares). The increase in opium cultivation areas was attributed to the favorable weather conditions for opium growing this year. The extended period of cool weather and moderate humidity provide ideal environments for opium cultivation from August to March. These conditions led many growers to expand their opium plots significantly. In addition, the relatively high price of raw opium in the local areas provides a strong incentive for continued cultivation.

The illicit opium cultivation areas

**13.32** ha  
Were discovered  
in **2024-2025**



From  
**2024-2025**  
**▲ 16.98 %**



**The largest area**  
was found in Mae Song  
Sub-District, Tha Song Yang  
District, Tak Province

**0.298** ha

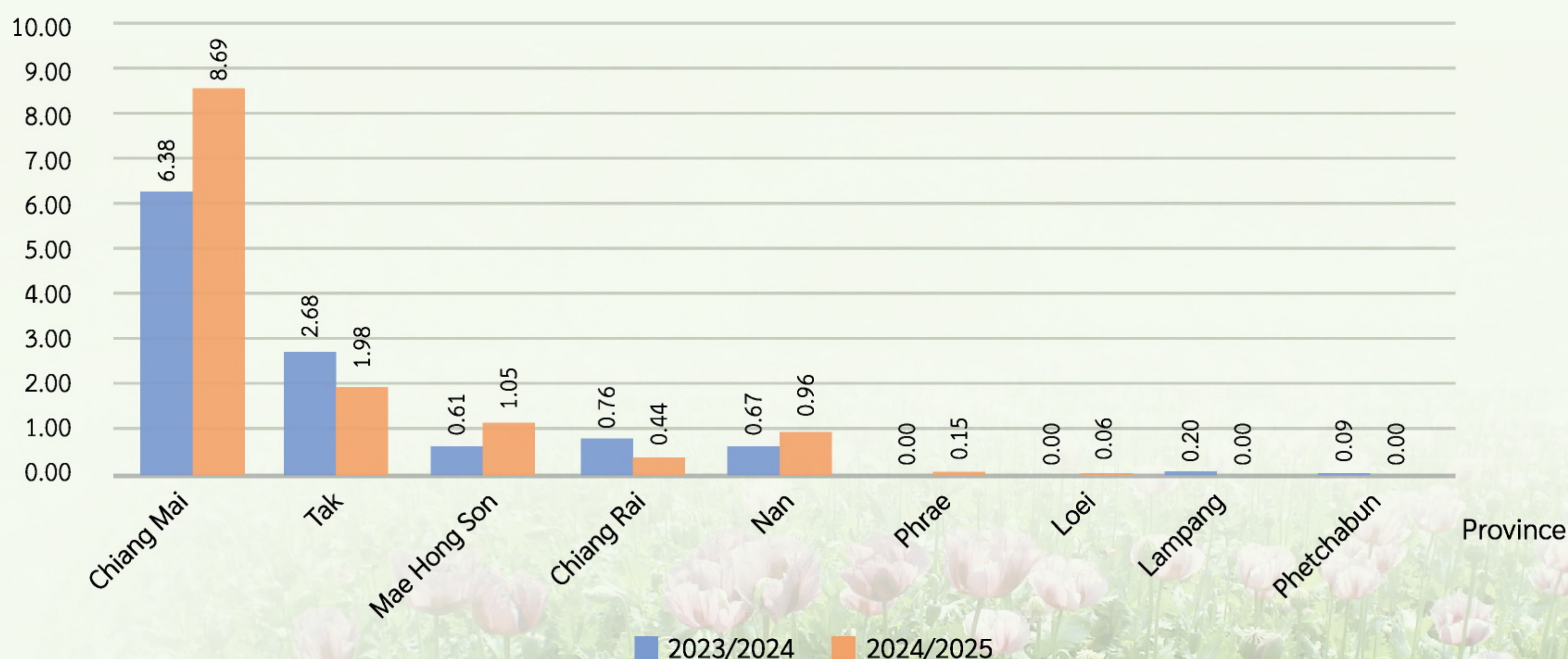


**The Smallest area**  
was found in Pa-Ca  
Sub-District, Tha Wung Pha  
District, Nan Province

**0.008** ha

## Comparison Chart of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas by Province between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025

Hectares (ha)



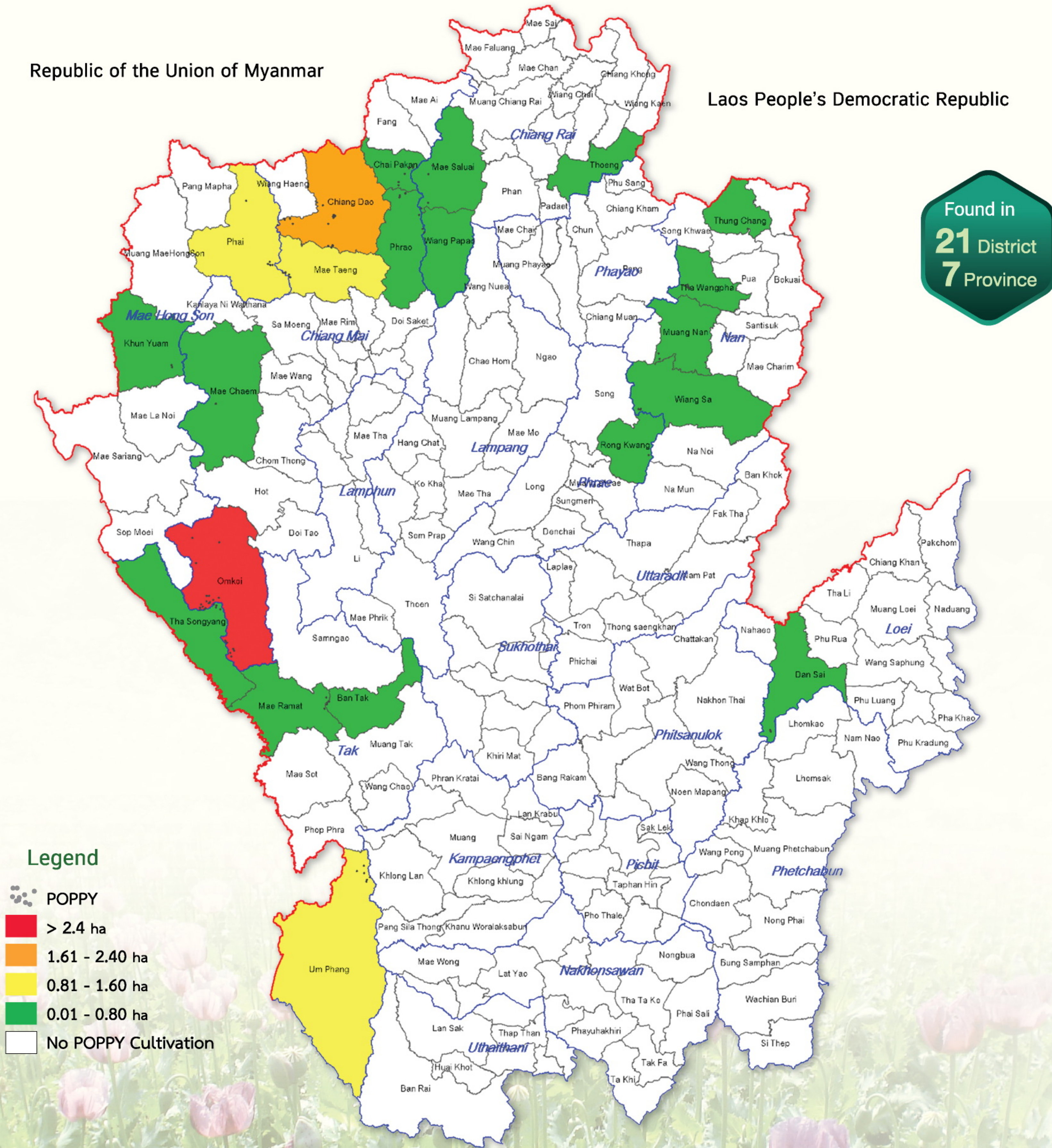
Remarks: For the year 2024/2025, the opium cultivation season is defined as spanning from August 2024 to May 2025.







Map of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas by District in 2024/2025



Comparison Table of Opium Cultivation Areas in the Top 5 Districts with the Highest Cultivation (Unit: Hectares)

Rank	District	Province	2023/2024	2024/2025
1	Om Koi	Chiang Mai	2.67	4.26
2	Chaing Dao	Chiang Mai	0.90	1.94
3	Um Phang	Tak	-	1.10
4	Pai	Mae Hong Son	0.61	1.00
5	Mae Taeng	Chiang Mai	0.40	0.99





Comparison Chart of Illicit Opium Cultivation Areas by Province in 2017/2018 – 2024/2025 (Unit: Hectares)

Rank	Province	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
1	Chiang Mai	26.26	18.16	12.91	11.88	9.12	10.84	6.38	8.69
2	Tak	60.67	22.38	7.00	6.49	3.16	3.89	2.68	1.98
3	Mae Hong son	3.41	1.32	1.22	2.31	2.11	3.29	0.61	1.05
4	Nan	0.52	0.32	0.82	1.30	0.89	1.62	0.67	0.96
5	Chiang Rai	2.81	0.32	0.99	0.28	1.65	0.32	0.76	0.44
6	Phrae	-	-	-	-	0.62	1.20	-	0.15
7	Loei	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06
8	Phayao	-	-	0.08	-	-	-	-	-
9	Lampang	-	0.12	-	0.20	-	-	0.20	-
10	Phetchabun	-	-	-	-	-	0.23	0.09	-
11	Phitsanulok	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.07	-	-
12	Kamphaengphet	1.28	0.24	-	-	0.17	-	-	-
Total		94.95	42.86	23.02	22.46	17.77	21.44	11.39	13.32

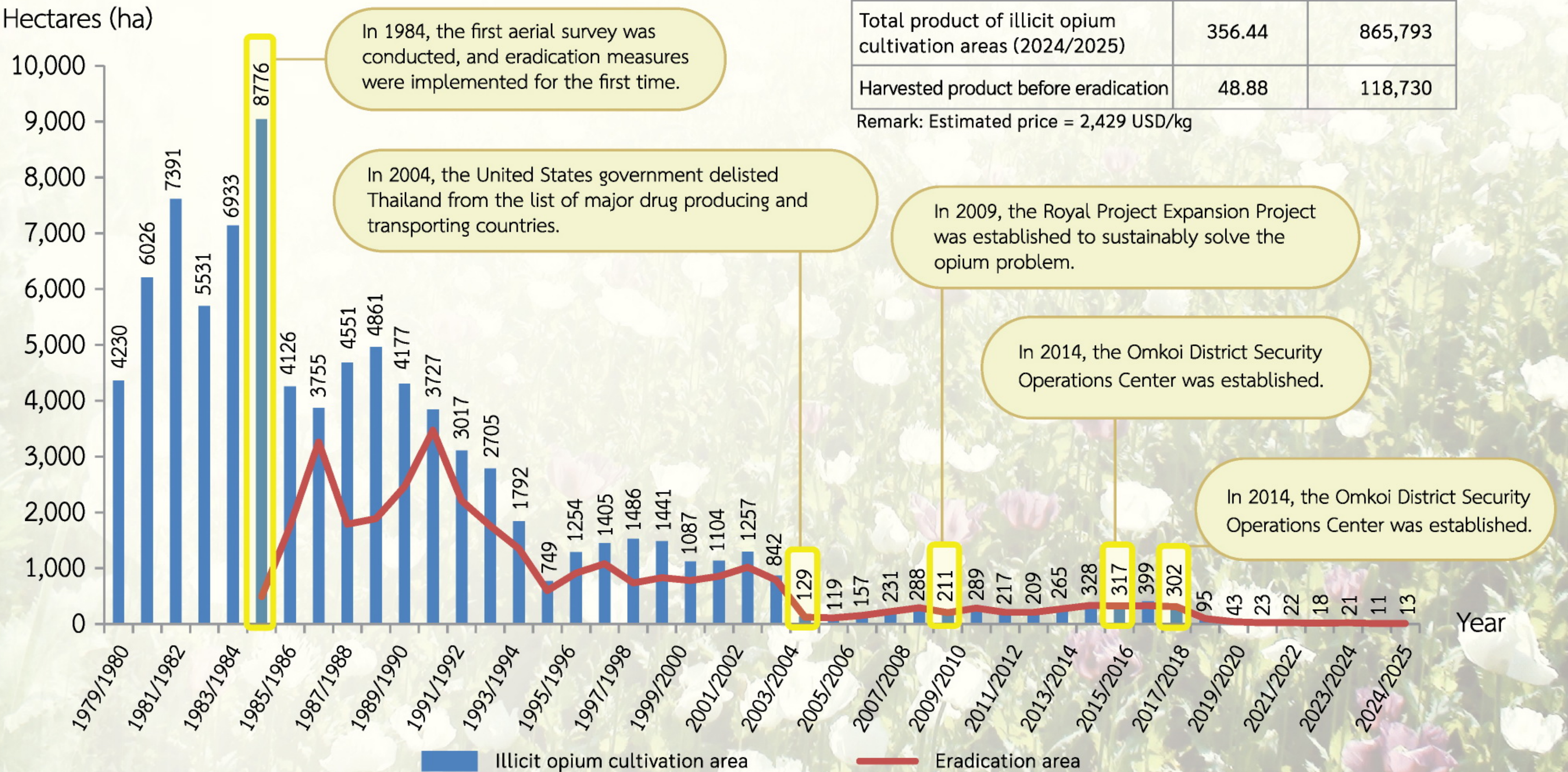
2 Results of the Eradication

The Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute identified 24 highland target areas for Border Patrol Police Region 3, to eradicate 145 illicit opium cultivation plots, covering a total of 13.32 hectares. All identified plots were successfully eradicated; however, some of the opium had been illegally harvested before the eradication operations took place.

Estimated Opium Yield and Value for the 2024/2025

Item	Yield (kg.)	Value (USD)
Average yield/ha	26.75	64,976
Total product of illicit opium cultivation areas (2024/2025)	356.44	865,793
Harvested product before eradication	48.88	118,730

Remark: Estimated price = 2,429 USD/kg







### Trend of Illicit Opium Cultivation in 2025/2026

Given the current situation of illicit opium cultivation, the trend of illicit opium cultivation is expected to remain stable in 2025 - 2026, with a total cultivation area not exceeding 16 hectares. However, without the implementation of preventive and suppressive measures before and after the cultivation season, law enforcement measures on the funding networks supporting opium cultivation and the provision of treatment and rehabilitation in high - prevalence areas, and efforts to improve access to occupational promotion and alternative development programs, the trend of illicit opium cultivation is likely to increase.

Key factors contributing to the continued cultivation of opium include:

(1) Price Incentive: the opium growers gained relatively high returns from illicit opium cultivation, with retail prices as high as 134,000 – 168,000 Baht per “joint”. (1 joint is equal to 1.6 kilogram).

(2) Remote locations and limited opportunities: the opium growers in remote and mountainous areas often face a lack of development opportunities and limited access to government oversight or support.

(3) Evolving cultivation methods: Modern opium cultivation has become increasingly covert and complex. Approximately 80% of opium is grown in small, scattered plots (less than 0.16 hectare), often involving multiple planting cycles within the same plot. Crops are arranged in rows resembling vegetable gardens or intercropped with other field or garden crops, making aerial surveillance and eradication efforts more challenging.

(4) Persistent local demand: it remains a user base in certain areas, particularly in Um Phang District, Tak Province, as well as Om Koi, Chiang Dao, and Mae Taeng Districts in Chiang Mai Province.



Cultivated in deep mountain forests



Covert and complex cultivation



Intercropped with other crops

