

SUMMARY OF THE OPIUM SURVEY AND ERADICATION IN THAILAND : 2026

1 Survey Results of Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas in 2026

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), through the Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute, has conducted a nationwide survey on the illicit opium poppy cultivation areas in 2026. It was found that there were 71 illicit opium poppy cultivation plots, which accounted for 3.92 hectares. This represents a decrease from previous year, which was 13.32 hectares, equivalent to a 70.62 percent decrease. The illicit plantations were found in 6 provinces and 20 districts, where Nan Province had the largest cultivation areas (1.67 hectares), followed by Chiang Mai Province (0.97 hectares), Mae Hong Son Province (0.44 hectares), Chiang Rai Province (0.34 hectares), Tak Province (0.32 hectares), and Pha Yao Province (0.17 hectares). The reduction in illicit opium poppy cultivation is attributable to continuous strengthening of law enforcement efforts to prevent and suppress illicit cultivation in high-risk areas throughout the fiscal year, strengthened suppression measures against financial networks supporting illicit opium poppy cultivation, treatment and rehabilitation measures for drug users and people with drug dependence in affected areas, and livelihood promotion and alternative development initiatives implemented by all relevant agencies.

The illicit opium cultivation areas **3.92 ha** Were discovered in **2026**

decrease

From **2025** ▼**70.62%**

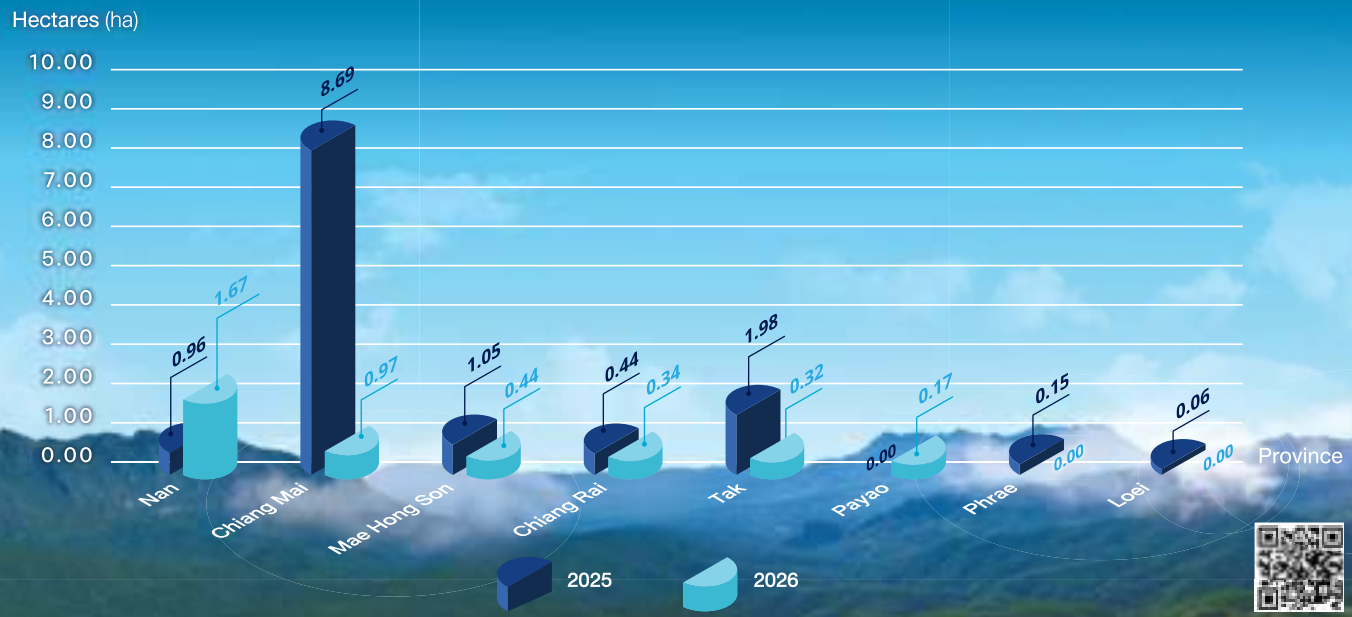


The largest area was found in Mae Sap Sub-District, Samoeng District, Chiang Mai Province **0.364 ha**



The Smallest area was found in Sop Pong Sub-District, Pang Mapha District, Mae Hong Son **0.002 ha**

Comparison Chart of Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas by Province between 2025 and 2026

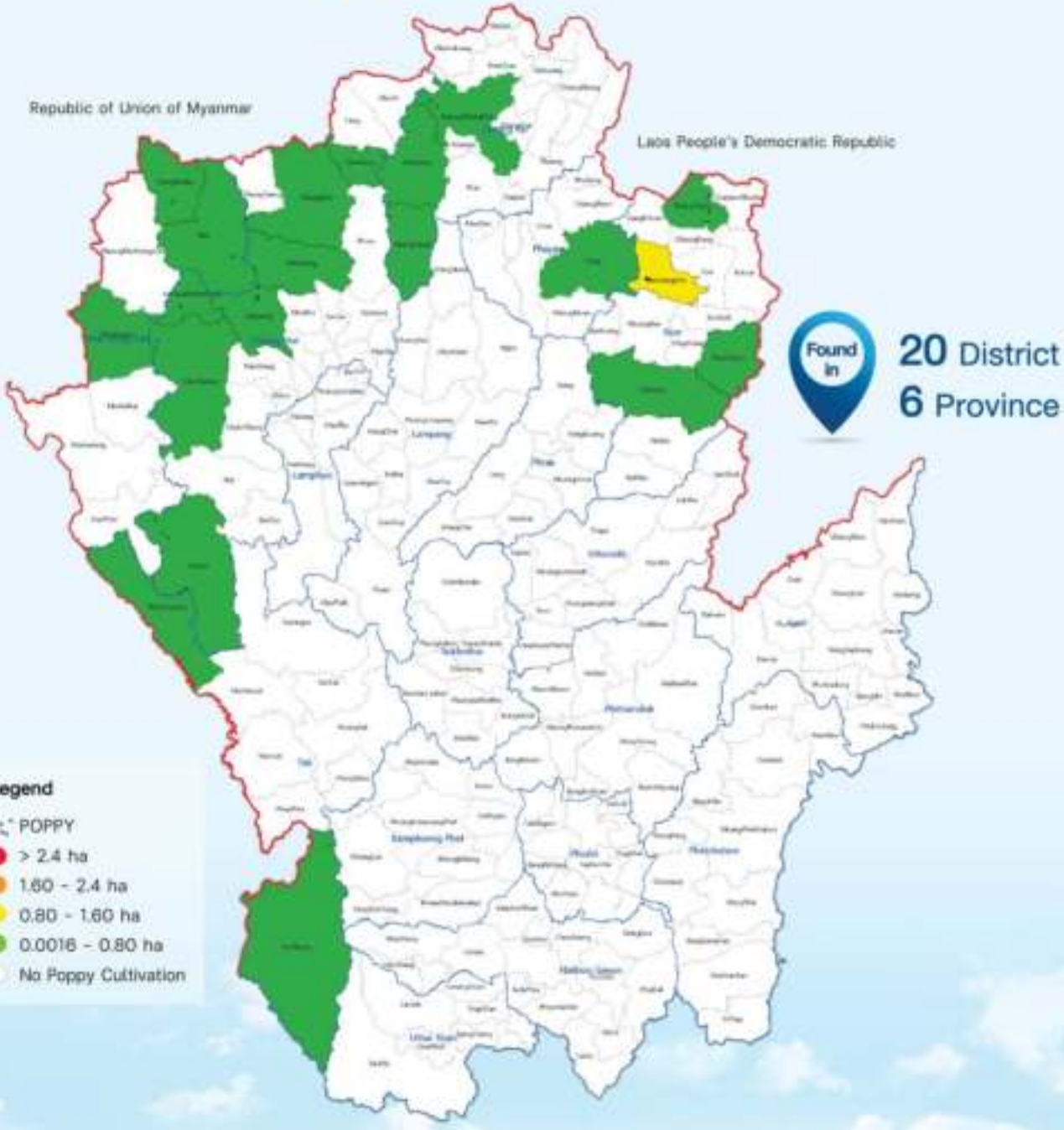


Remarks : The 2026 opium poppy cultivation season is defined as spanning from August 2025 to June 2026.

Full Report



Map of Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas by District in 2026



Comparison Table of Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas in the Top 5 Districts with the Highest Cultivation

(Unit: Hectares)

Rank	District	Province	2026
1	Tha Wang Pha	Nan	1.16
2	Sa Moeng	Chiang Mai	0.53
3	Pai	Mae Hong son	0.41
4	Tha Song Yang	Tak	0.29
5	Thung Chang	Nan	0.24



Comparison Chart of Illicit Poppy Opium Cultivation Areas by Province in 2018 – 2026

(Unit: Hectares)

Rank	Province	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1	Nan	0.52	0.32	0.82	1.30	0.89	1.62	0.67	0.96	1.67
2	Chiang Mai	26.26	18.16	12.91	11.88	9.12	10.84	6.38	8.69	0.97
3	Mae Hong Son	3.41	1.32	1.22	2.31	2.11	3.29	0.61	1.05	0.44
4	Chiang Rai	2.81	0.32	0.99	0.28	1.65	0.32	0.76	0.44	0.34
5	Tak	60.67	22.38	7.00	6.49	3.16	3.89	2.68	1.98	0.32
6	Phayao	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.17
7	Phrae	-	-	-	-	0.62	1.20	-	0.15	-
8	Loei	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	-
9	Lampang	-	0.12	0.08	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	3.92

2 Results of the eradication

The Narcotic Crop Survey and Control Institute coordinated operations with Border Patrol Police Region 3 to eradicate illicit opium poppy cultivation in 19 designated highland target areas. The operation successfully achieved its objectives in all target areas, eradicating a total of 71 cultivation plots covering 3.92 hectares. However, it was found that latex had already been collected from some mature opium poppy plants before officers were able to reach the sites. This was due to survey limitations, as cultivation does not begin simultaneously across all locations, the highland sites are widely dispersed and difficult to access, and farmers often cultivate multiple planting cycles within the same plot, allowing some poppy plants to mature and have their latex collected before eradication teams arrived.



Estimation of Opium Yield and Value for 2026

Item	Yield (kg.)	Value (THB)
Average price/kg.	1.00	85,000
Average yield/ha	26.75	2,273,750
Total opium production across 3.92 ha. of illicit cultivation areas	104.73	8,902,050
Harvested product before eradication	11.56	982,600



3 Trend of Illicit Opium Poppy Cultivation in 2027

The current opium situation in Thailand is primarily influenced by external factors, particularly developments in Myanmar, which remains the world's largest area of illicit opium poppy cultivation. According to recent reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar has reached its highest level in the decade. This increase is largely attributed to the country's prolonged armed conflict and economic crisis, which have left opium poppy as one of the few crops available to farmers seeking to sustain their livelihoods in the midst of armed conflict. These developments are expected to continue generating spillover effects along Thailand's border areas, including the continued inflow of illicit drugs and the persistence of opium poppy cultivation among ethnic communities living along the border, where cross-border family ties and shared cultural traditions remain strong.

Within Thailand, illicit opium poppy cultivation has been effectively contained at a relatively low level over the past several years. Nevertheless, several risk factors require close monitoring in 2027. The total cultivation area is projected not to exceed 100 rai (approximately 16 hectares), with cultivation expected to remain concentrated in remote and inaccessible areas, including Omkoi District in Chiang Mai Province, Mae Ramat District in Tak Province, Tha Wang Pha District in Nan Province, and parts of Mae Hong Son Province. The principal drivers of continued cultivation include the presence of opium users who have not received continuous treatment and rehabilitation services, together with the high retail price of raw opium, which can reach THB 134,000 - 168,000 per joint (1 joint = 1.6 kilograms).

In addition, cultivators have increasingly adopted concealment techniques, including reducing the size of cultivation plots and using other crops as cover, in order to evade detection and eradication by law enforcement authorities. Villages with a history of illicit opium poppy cultivation remain priority surveillance areas, particularly in Omkoi and Chai Prakan Districts of Chiang Mai Province, Mae Ramat and Tha Song Yang Districts of Tak Province, and Mae Suai District of Chiang Rai Province.


Seeding


20 - 25 day


60 - 65 day


75 - 77 day


80 - 81 day


82 day


87 day


88 - 90 day


90 - 93 day


95 - 97 day


100 - 110 day


Seed for next cultivation

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