

NEWS RELEASE

Presentation of the Survey of Territories Affected by Illegal Crops (2019)

Coca cultivation in Colombia decreased by 9% in 2019: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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The Integrated Monitoring System of Illicit Crops (SIMCI), of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the National Government, reports a 9% reduction in the area planted with coca in the country. There were 169,000 hectares in 2018 and in 2019 154,000 hectares were found.

Despite this reduction, cocaine production remains stable, according to the 2019 survey of territories affected by illegal crops in Colombia. This presents the following relevant outcomes: The department of Caquetá reduced its planted area by 62%; Antioquia by 29%; Nariño by 12%; Bolivar by 7.5%; and Putumayo by 5%.

However, there were notable increases in Norte de Santander which registered a 24.1% increase in territory affected by coca cultivation, and in Valle del Cauca, where the rise reached 82% compared to 2018.

It is estimated that 1,137 metric tons (MT) of pure cocaine hydrochloride were potentially produced in 2019, a 1.5% increase.

The increase of productivity is due to the concentration of the crops in productive enclaves where the planting and processing of the leaves are facilitated. The estimated production of coca leaf was 993,107 MT, representing an increase of 1.6%.

Regarding the productivity of the crop, at the national level, it is estimated that one hectare of coca produced about 5.8 MT of fresh leaf per year, which means an increase of 1.8%.

Concerning vulnerable territories, it was identified that in national natural parks, crops are present in 14 protected areas, with a total of 6,785 hectares, reflecting a reduction of 13.5%.

In indigenous reservations, 14,022 hectares were reported, a reduction of 15.5%; and in the lands of the black communities, an estimated 24,856 hectares were found, a reduction of 8%.

Since 2015, coca crops tends to focus on the areas where productive enclaves are formed. That is, territories with conditions conducive to the full production cycle: coca leaf cultivation, processing into cocaine base or cocaine hydrochloride, and trafficking to consumption cores in Colombia and abroad.

The main productive enclaves are currently located in Catatumbo (Norte de Santander); some sectors of the municipalities of Tumaco, El Charco and Olaya Herrera (Nariño); the area of El Naya (Cauca and Valle del Cauca); regions of the municipalities of Tarazá, Valdivia and Cáceres (Antioquia); sectors of the municipalities of Argelia and El Tambo (Cauca); and sectors of the municipalities of Valle del Guamuez, San Miguel and Puerto Asis (Putumayo).

36% of the coca is found in these enclaves, which additionally, are becoming more competitive due to the increased profitability in cultivating and processing the crops.

After two consecutive years of reduction of illicit crops, the National Government confirmed an interruption of increasing trends in coca crops, thus highlighting the achievements of 'Ruta Futuro' (Future Route), an integral strategy for the reduction of illicit crops, which is part of the Integral Policy to Confront the Drug Problem.

Likewise, it reiterates its commitment to the fight against drug trafficking, as an indispensable condition for peace with legality that contributes to the well-being and sustainable development of the country.

The key aspects and main results of the Survey of Territories Affected by Illegal Crops can be seen in this animated [infographic](#).

[More information:](#)

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