Crop Control Strategies and Alternative Development

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Extent of the Drug Problem – Plant Based Drugs

Primary Producers – Driving Energy Source for all organisms

Metabolic pathways – Many important biomolecules

Medicinally important Molecules – Pharmacognitive

Where we are? Who we are?

Animal Behavior verses Humans
Cannabis sativa L. – Cannabis

- Cannabis is the drug most widely used among general population and youth
- The most widely produced
- Increasing trend in Cannabis use
- Medically valued – 200 kg/year Ayurveda Drug Cooperation
Global annual prevalence of cannabis use among the general population, aged 15–64 years and among students aged 15–16 years, 2016

- General population (aged 15–64 years): 3.9%
- Students (aged 15–16 years): 5.6%
Papaver somniferum – Opium, Heroin

- Responsible for the most of the negative health impacts on drug uses
- Past-year users of opiates (heroin and opium) - **19.4 million** (0.4 per cent of the global population aged 15–64 years)
- Opium poppy cultivation has doubled since 2006 to reach almost **418,000** hectares in 2017
- Global opium production increased by **65 per cent from 2016 to 2017**
Erythrocylon coca - Cocaine

• Globally, an estimated **18.2 million** people used cocaine in 2016
• Indications of an increase in cocaine use
• Global coca bush cultivation, increased by **76 per cent** over the period 2013–2016 to **213,000 ha.**
Plant based New Psychoactive substances

*Kratom*  
(*Mitragyna speciosa*)

*Khat*  
(*Catha edulus*)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Seized Quantity (kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>4987.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>220.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hashish</td>
<td>38.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opium</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>314.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Psychotropic</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Seized Quantities of Drugs (kg) in 2017 in Sri Lanka
The Drivers to Illicit Cultivation

- No single factor and location/household specific
- Characteristics of the illicit crop (agronomic, durability, profit)
- Infrastructures and socio-economic opportunities
- Environment
- Rule of Law and governance
Strategies to Crop Control
Main strategies

• Crop eradication
• Alternative Development (Socio Economics)
• Awareness
• Law enforcement measures
Extent of the Plant-based Drug Problem in Sri Lanka

- Cannabis is the only plant (drug) that is cultivated illicitly in Sri Lanka.
- Majority of cases of drug related arrests were for cannabis - 51,788 in the year 2017 (Total arrests 81156).
- The quantity of cannabis seized island-wide was 4987.61 kg in 2017.
Cannabis related arrests

• Among the drug users arrested in the recent past a significant decrease in cannabis related arrests has been noted.
• Cannabis related arrests had increased by 8.4% in 2017 compared to that of 2016.
Crop eradication

- Mechanic and manual destruction (plant by plant) as a short term
- Aerial or manual spraying
- burning
- aerial fumigation etc.
- A few natural enemies reported – Biological control (*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. erythroxyl*)
- Pest resistance
• **Introduction of income-generating alternatives**
  ✓ as economic necessity tends to play an important role in a farmer’s decision on whether to engage in illicit crop cultivation.
  ✓ Income generating alternatives need to be viable and sustainable in order to decrease dependence on illicit crop cultivation.
• Enhance marketing options and reduce some of the vulnerabilities related to illicit crop cultivation
• Long-term political and financial support is essential (Enter prize Sri Lanka)
• Farmer Education
• Land ownership
• Subsidiary programme
• Alternative cash crops
An Integrated approach to maintain the sustainability of alternative programs

- Establishment of working groups/joint mechanisms at village level consists of the following representations to assist alternative development programmes;

- Establishment of a Monitoring mechanism with indicators for assessment of the extent of the illicit cultivation and to measure the effectiveness of the alternative development programmes within the Local Govt. Administration System.
Composition of the Working Group

✓ Drug prevention and control agency
✓ Agriculture Department
✓ Law enforcement agencies
✓ Local Government Authorities
✓ Civil societies (NGOs)
✓ Financial Authorities (Rural Banks, Micro finance)
Responsibilities of the Working group

- Assessment on the challenges, progress and recommendations on alternative development programmes
- Ensure adequate funding and political support
- Technical support and skill development programmes for farmers
- Enhance marketing options
- Monitor effectiveness of measures taken
Awareness Programmes

- Preventive Education for vulnerable groups
- Skill development programmes - Vocational
- Awareness programmes on the strengthening coordination among participatory agencies
Law Enforcement

- Drug law enforcement
- Scientific Professionals
- Health authorities
- Law and policy makers

for their active participation in control, treatment & rehabilitation activities, resource & Intelligence shearing among member states.
Proposals to UNODC

• Proposed to establish monitoring and evaluation of the continuous improvement of the projects to encourage member states to promote joint activities in designing and implementing evidence-based strategies.

• Special thanks to CND, UNODC and WHO as the leading entities for technical and the financial support extended to Sri Lanka to uplift and strengthening our drug law enforcement and other supply control related measures.
Thank you......