

Fact Sheet – Bolivia Coca Cultivation Monitoring Report, 2022

Variables	Source	2021	2022	% Change 2021-2022
Area under coca bush cultivation¹				
Area under coca cultivation in Bolivia (rounded to hundred)	UNODC	30,500* ha	29,900* ha	-2%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of the Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	18,756 ha	18,149 ha	-3%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of Tropics of Cochabamba ²	UNODC	11,270 ha	11,388 ha	+1%
Area under coca cultivation in the region of the North of La Paz	UNODC	464 ha	405 ha	-13%
Permitted coca production area in Authorized Zones ³	Plurinational State of Bolivia (Law 906)	22,000 ha	22,000	-
Potential production of sun-dried coca leaf⁴				
Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	21,300* – 24,500* mt	20,600* – 23,700* mt	-3%
Tropics of Cochabamba	UNODC	23,100* – 31,100* mt	23,300* – 31,500* mt	+1%
North of La Paz	UNODC	480* – 580* mt	420* – 510* mt	-13%
Total production of sun-dried coca leaf in Bolivia	UNODC	44,900* – 56,200* mt	44,400* – 55,700* mt	-1%
Trading, prices and seizures of coca leaf and controlled substances				
Coca leaf traded in authorized markets in Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	23,895 mt	24,762 mt	+4%
National nominal weighted average price of coca leaf in authorized markets ⁵	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	9.5 USD/kg	6.6 USD/kg	-31%
Estimated value of coca leaf in Bolivia ⁶	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN) – UNODC	USD 352 – 431 million	USD 229 – 279 Million	-35%
Value of coca leaf production in percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ⁷	INE – UNODC	0.9 – 1.1%	0.5 – 0.6%	-44% ~ -45%
Value of coca leaf production in percent of the value of the agricultural sector ⁸	INE – UNODC	7.0 – 8.0%	4.0 – 5.0%	-43% ~ -38%
Coca leaf seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	296 mt	331 mt	+12%
Cocaine base seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	11,923 kg	10,125 kg	-15%
Cocaine hydrochloride seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	7,805 kg	10,213 kg	+31%
Coca cultivation rationalization/eradication in Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGPROCOCA-CEO)	9,458 ha	10,260 ha	+8%

*Figures rounded

¹ Area affected by coca cultivation at the end of 2022 determined based on the visual interpretation of satellite images of 50 cm and 30 cm pixel size.

² This includes the coca-producing zones of Ichilo province in the department of Santa Cruz and of Moxos province in the department of Beni.

³ Since 2017, the area under coca cultivation in Authorized Zones has been regulated by the General Coca Law, Law 906, promulgated in March 2017, limited to 22,000 ha.

⁴ The sum of the regional figures to calculate the national result was done with unrounded numbers, but the figures shown in this summary of results are rounded to the hundreds and tens, respectively. For this fact sheet, a single percentage change was placed for the potential production ranges for the lower and upper limits.

⁵ The national nominal weighted average price of coca leaf, based on estimates from the two authorized markets, reported by DIGCOIN, is represented in US dollars (USD). For this calculation the official exchange rate of the Central Bank of Bolivia was used: 6.96 Bs., as of 12/31/2022.

⁶ Figures calculated assuming the trading of the estimated potential production of coca leaf (lower and upper limits) using the nominal prices from the authorized coca leaf markets in Bolivia. For this fact sheet, a single percentage change has been placed for the ranges of value of coca leaf for the lower and upper limits.

⁷ Value calculated from the GDP 2021 and 2022 (INE).

⁸ Value calculated from the GDP of agricultural sector 2021 and 2022 (INE).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2022 Coca Crop Monitoring Report is the 20th report published by UNODC in coordination with the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This document provides quantitative information on the extent of coca cultivation and potential coca leaf production in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Furthermore, this report also presents complementary information from state institutions about coca leaf prices, coca leaf trade and pricing, rationalization/eradication, and other related topics.

The monitoring results for 2022 show a 2% decrease in the area under coca bush cultivation compared to 2021, with an estimated area of 29,900 ha⁹ of coca crops. 61% of the area cultivated with coca was in the region of the Yungas of La Paz, 38% in the Tropics of Cochabamba and 2% in the North of La Paz.

Compared to 2021, the region of Yungas of La Paz showed a decrease in area equivalent to 3%. Likewise, the North of La Paz region registered a decrease of 13%. In contrast, the Tropic of Cochabamba region showed an increase of 1%. On the other hand, coca cultivation in the affected Protected Areas reported a decrease of 4% by 2022.

The UNODC has reported 29,900 ha of coca in Bolivia following a methodology adjusted and approved by UNODC Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme (ICMP) based in Vienna, to maintain the historical comparability of the whole monitoring historic series. The UNODC methodology establishes parameters for interpretation of coca crops taking into account visible elements on a satellite image and the working scale.

The extent of satellite images acquired for 2022 monitoring was 15,280 km², 1% larger than the one acquired in 2021. For this monitoring, the available Pleiades and Pleiades Neo¹⁰ sensors were used, aiming to improve the interpretation in the monitoring areas.

The potential production of sun-dried coca leaf in Bolivia was estimated in a range of 44,400 mt for the lower limit and 55,700 mt for the upper limit, which represents a decrease to 2% for both ranges compared to 2021. Calculation made with yield factors estimated prior to 2010.

Data reported about rationalization/eradication, trade, prices and seizures of coca leaf and controlled substances are shared with UNODC as official information reported by the EPB corresponding to period January to December 2022.

In 2021, the Plurinational State of Bolivia made an extreme effort to control excess coca cultivation by resuming the tasks of rationalization in Authorized Zones and eradication in Unauthorized Zones (in accordance with the General Coca Law, Law

⁹ Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

¹⁰ High and Very High spatial resolution images, Pleiades 50 cm and Pleiades Neo 30 cm.

906), reaching 9,458 ha, which represents an increase of 334% compared to 2020 (2.177 ha), containing this way the higher increase in coca crops surface.

According to the information reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in 2022, efforts to control surplus coca cultivation were maximized through rationalization in Authorized Production Areas and eradication in Unauthorized Areas, as stipulated in the General Coca Law, Law 906. In 2022, a total rationalized/eradicated area of 10,260 ha was reported, representing an 8% increase over 2021 (802 ha).

Of the total rationalization/eradication area reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNODC validated 11.8% of this area, through the accompaniment of the R/E tasks and the analysis and evaluation of the geo-referenced information provided by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

The volume of coca leaf traded in authorized markets reached 24,762 mt, representing an increase of 4% compared to 2021. The final destinations of the coca leaf traded were 38% to the Department of Santa Cruz; 16% to Tarija, 13% to Potosi, 11% to Cochabamba, 9% to Oruro and the remaining 13% was destined to other departments.

The nominal weighted average national price of coca leaf sales, in authorized markets, was reduced by 31% from 9.5 USD/kg in 2021 to 6.6 USD/kg in 2022, according to the official exchange rate of the Central Bank of Bolivia (6.96 Bs), this reported price is not corrected for annual inflation.

Potential coca leaf production was estimated at 44,400 - 55,700 mt with an estimated value of US\$ 229 - 279 million.

Compared to 2021, the total seizure of coca leaf increased by 12%, reaching 331 mt in 2022. On the other hand, the seizure of cocaine base decreased by 15% (10.13 mt) and the seizure of cocaine hydrochloride increased by 31% (10.21 mt). The seizure of solid chemical substances increased by 43% (746,750 kg), while liquid substances decreased by 36% (511,890 liters)¹¹.

¹¹ UNODC, through the validation of information on the destruction of seized illegal drugs, accompanies the national authorities in the fulfillment of their legal tasks. The information contained in this report corresponds only to the information reported by the Plurinational State of Bolivia.