

SUMMARY FACT SHEET – COLOMBIA COCA CULTIVATION SURVEY, 2017

	2016	Variation	2017
Net coca cultivation area calculated on 31 st December (rounded to the nearest thousand) ¹	146,000 hectares	17%	171,000 hectares
Pacific region	57,777 hectares	13%	65,567 hectares
Central region	40,526 hectares	31%	52,960 hectares
Putumayo – Caquetá region	34,505 hectares	20%	41,382 hectares
Meta – Guaviare region	12,302 hectares	-15%	10,500 hectares
Orinoco region	708 hectares	9%	774 hectares
Amazon region	286 hectares	6%	302 hectares
Sierra Nevada region	35 hectares	-71%	10 hectares
Average fresh coca leaf yield ^{2,3}	5.6 mt/ha/year ²	-	5.6 mt/ha/year
Potential fresh coca leaf production ²	701,100 mt (615,600 mt – 832,500 mt)	32%	930,900 mt (792,500 mt – 1,095,900 mt)
Potential cocaine hydrochloride production ²	1,053 mt (917 mt – 1,240 mt)	31%	1,379 mt (1,174 mt – 1,623 mt)
Average potential cocaine hydrochloride/hectare harvested ^{2,3}	8.4 kg/ hectare harvested	-2%	8.2 kg/ hectare harvested
Cocaine seizures ⁴	362,415 kg	20%	435,431 kg
Illegal laboratories destroyed ^{4,5}	4,820	-12%	4,252

¹ This corresponds to the area with coca found on December the 31st, 2016, vis-à-vis December the 31st, 2017.

² In October 2015 Colombia suspended the aerial spraying of coca crops programme making it necessary to update yield estimates across different regions. In 2016 a survey was carried out in the Putumayo-Caquetá region under the “Economic structure characterization of Agricultural Production Units” programme, which is applied in coca crops areas of influence. Yield assessment studies were also carried out in the field in 2017 which resulted in a fresh coca leaf yield equivalent to 6.7 mt/ha/year for this region. This value was applied retroactively to 2016, since farmers had reported a similar value in the 2016 survey, equivalent to 3.3 mt/ha/year. As a result, average potential fresh coca leaf yields and average potential cocaine production were updated, changing from around 4.8 to 5.6 mt/ha/year and from 6.8 to 8.2 kg/ha, respectively.

³ Average fresh coca leaf yields per year and potential production of cocaine per harvested hectare are calculated on the basis of the productive area during the year.

⁴ Values are verified and updated on a continuous basis, which may have an impact on data and trends previously reported. Values for the year 2016 were updated.

⁵ This only includes cocaine laboratories and other structures set up for the production of basic cocaine paste and cocaine base.

SUMMARY FACT SHEET – COLOMBIA COCA CULTIVATION SURVEY, 2017

	2016	Variation	2017
Reported manual eradication of illicit crops	18,227 hectares	188%	52,571 hectares
Achieved an enrolment rate in the National Substitution Program - (PNIS)	-	-	54,027 families
Average coca leaf price at production sites ⁶	COP\$2,900/kg US\$0.95/kg	-28%	COP\$2,100/kg US\$0.71/kg
Average cocaine paste price ⁶	COP\$1,895,700/kg US\$621/kg	-14%	COP\$1,633,500/kg US\$554/kg
Average cocaine hydrochloride price ⁶	COP\$4,984,600/kg US\$1,633/kg	-11%	COP\$4,449,500/kg US\$1,508/kg

⁶ Representative Exchange Rates used to convert Colombian Peso to US Dollars were of \$COP3.052/\$ US in 2016 and \$COP2.951/\$ US in 2017. These rates correspond to the yearly averaged value, based on monthly rates reported by the Central Bank or Banco de la República, Colombia.

Executive Summary

Main findings

The area with coca crops in Colombia has been increasing since 2013 at an average yearly rate of 45%. The area under coca bush cultivation went from 48,000 ha in 2013 to 146,000 in 2016. This constant increase occurred against a backdrop of peace negotiations with the FARC guerrillas, and during a transition in the strategy to fight coca crops. The new strategy included the suspension of aerial spraying of coca crops, an increase in manual eradication goals, the preparation of the national comprehensive crop substitution plan – PNIS, and the promotion of comprehensive action targeting the different links of the drug trafficking chain.

As of 31 December 2017, the area with coca crops in Colombia increased by 17% (25,000 ha), as compared to 2016, reaching 171,000 ha (Figure 1). 64% of the increase was concentrated in Antioquia, Putumayo, Norte de Santander and Cauca. Nariño continued to be the department with the largest coca cultivation area, despite a lower rate of increase (7%) than in the rest of the country. Tumaco was still the most affected municipality even though the area under coca bush cultivation was down by 16%. The largest reduction in absolute terms occurred in the department of Guaviare, where cultivation decreased by 1,915 hectares between 2016 and 2017. In terms of distribution, 33% of coca crops were situated over isolated areas, 10 km away from any populated centre and 34% of the coca crops were located in areas covered by forests in 2014.

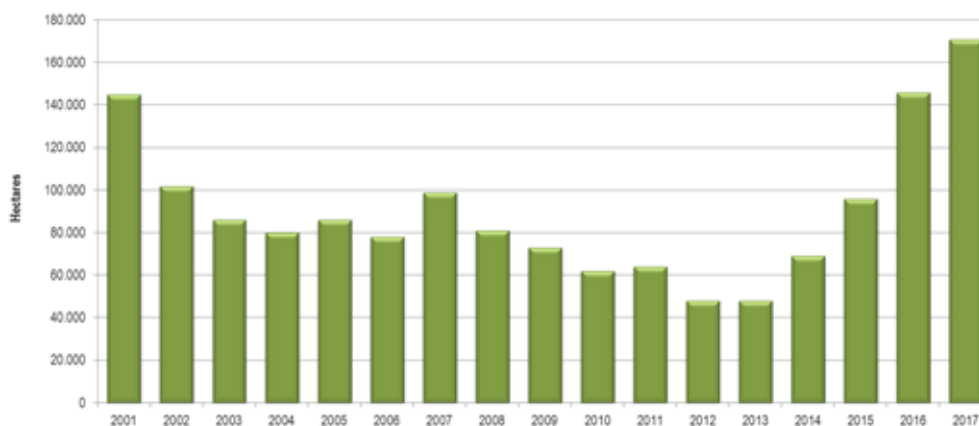


Figure 1: Historical series of area with coca bush at December 31, 2001 – 2017

A considerable increase of 33% was detected in the productive area⁷, which reached 167,400 ha in 2017 (Figure 2). The productive area is an estimate of the coca crop area that has contributed to the total production of coca leaf during the survey period. The difference between the increase in the total area under cultivation (17%) and the productive area (33%)

⁷While the total area under cultivation provides a snapshot of the area under coca cultivation at a precise time, the 31st December, the productive area considers the entire year and accounts for the whole area where productive coca plants were under cultivation. This productive area is estimated considering the permanence of coca plants in an area and their potential productivity (so that for example new plants are excluded because they are not productive). The model used to estimate the productive area takes into account several factors, such as forced eradication, aerial spraying and plant coverages, inter alia.

can be explained by the fact that there was a large increase in coca bush cultivation in 2016 due to new coca plantations which only became productive in 2017.

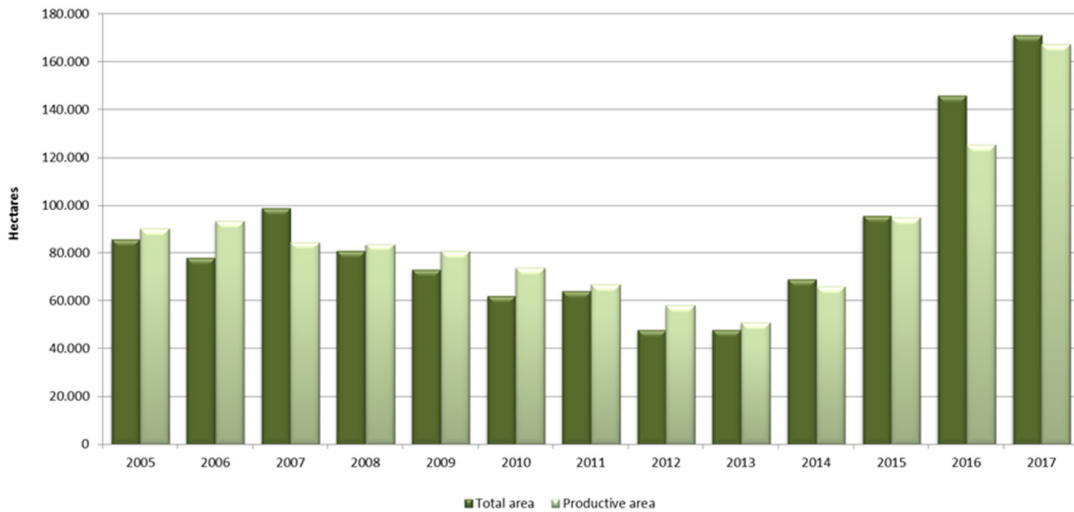


Figure 2: Total area at 31 December and productive area throughout the year, 2005 – 2017

Field research in 2017 revealed a higher fresh coca leaf yield for 2017 and before⁸, and -based on this research- a new average yield figure of 5.6 mt/ha/year was defined to 2017 and retroactively to 2016, and therefore there was no change in yield between 2016 and 2017. However, fresh coca leaf production increased by 32%, from 707,100 tons in 2016 to 930,900 tons in 2017 due to the increase in productive area. Similarly, potential cocaine production increased by 31%, from 1,053 mt in 2016 to 1,379 mt in 2017 (Figure 3).

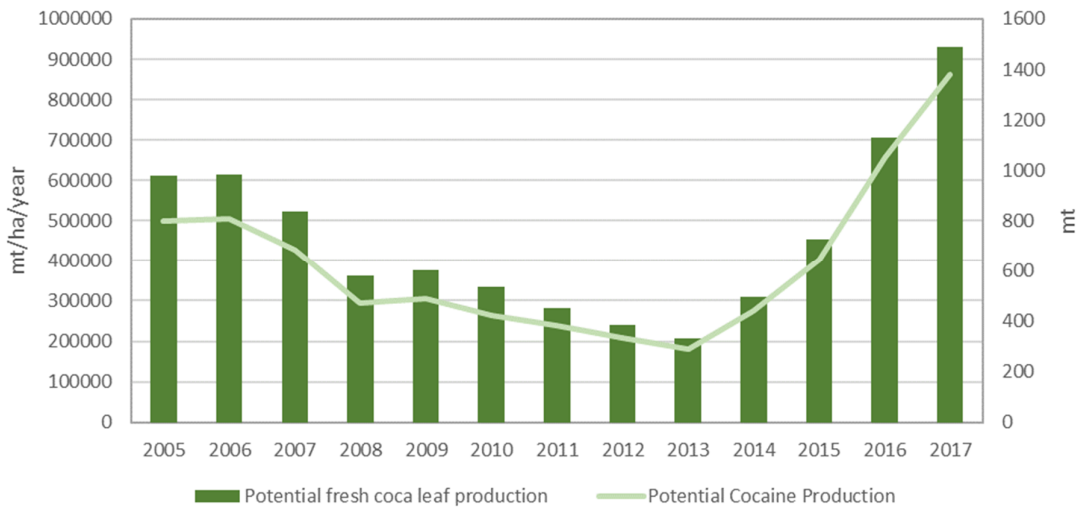


Figure 3: Potential fresh coca leaf and potential cocaine production, 2005 – 2017

⁸ The figure for potential fresh coca leaf and potential cocaine production in 2016 was updated taking into account the results of a new yield study in the Putumayo-Caquetá region, changing from around 4.8 to 5.6mt/ha/year and from 6.8 to 8.2kg/ha, respectively.

The prices of fresh coca leaf, cocaine paste and cocaine hydrochloride fell by 28%, 14% and 11% respectively, as compared to 2016. Considering the increased supply of cocaine, it could be inferred that prices responded to an increase in availability. However, this relationship is not direct or uniform throughout the Colombian territory. Regional and local differences can be seen, which are possibly associated with the presence of buyers in the production areas and the territorial control of groups outside the law which are decisive in the market dynamics of coca at the local level.

It is estimated that the total amount of coca leaf produced in the ten municipalities, which have most of the coca crops, has a value in the local market of COP \$ 890,232 million (US \$ 302 million). As a reference, the aggregate value of annual official municipal budget for these ten municipalities, is COP \$ 577.000 million (USD \$ 196 million)⁹.

The most significant reductions in coca leaf and cocaine paste prices took place in the following regions: Meta-Guaviare, Orinoquía and Pacífico. This confirms a stagnation demand for coca leaf during the first half of 2017, due to lack of buyers.

In 2017 cocaine seizures increased by 20%; destruction of cocaine hydrochloride production building complexes¹⁰ increased; forced eradication tripled and the first voluntary eradication agreements were signed.

The way forward

Colombia could still improve some key aspects in its fight against cocaine production. Monitoring data indicates that crops decreased 11% in areas where coca control activities (forced or voluntary eradication) were carried out. However, such interventions were only achieved in 14% of the territory with coca crops. Reaching higher impact rates requires not only improvements in coordination and coverage, but also designing strategies adapted to the different local and regional conditions.

The National Substitution Program (PNIS) achieved an enrolment rate of 54,027 families in 2017. By June 2018, this amount increased to 77,659 families. The results of this effort are not yet fully detectable in this monitoring report, because when the 2017 coca survey was implemented, many families enrolled in the program were still within the agreed period to comply with the voluntary eradication process.

The PNIS initiative could improve its effectiveness through better coordination with other rural development strategies. Forced eradication should be implemented on coca lots where growers did not sign agreements to achieve continuous, coca-free territories. Also, persistence of coca

⁹ Source: http://www.chip.gov.co/schip_rt/index.jsf

¹⁰ “Cocaine hydrochloride production building complexes (CPCC)” consist of a series of interconnected infrastructures, functioning as a structural whole, for the illicit production of cocaine hydrochloride. CPCCs are generally distributed in a spatial area directly related to the central or “crystallization” facility where “industrial chemical” activities are carried out to clandestinely produce cocaine hydrochloride.

crops in areas falling under the PNIS program threatens the sustainability of the effort, exposes the communities and delays the transformation to legal livelihoods in the territories.

A fundamental step to reverse the increasing trend in coca crops and other unintended consequences, is clear messaging and communication about the objectives and strategy to follow. In order to improve communication and mutual understanding, suitable interlocutors should be identified and a monitoring system which tracks implementation of the agreements must be put in place so as to transmit evidence-based and trustable messages to the concerned people.

Transformation of the territory is key to achieving sustainable peace and development of the areas with coca crops. This is possible if the efforts are not only focusing on illicit activities, but also on understanding the complexities and challenges of these territories. This process should consider and include non-coca cultivating neighbours, the neighbouring populated villages and the market centres that can support and reinforce legal activities. Identification of realistic and feasible alternatives for isolated areas where there are challenges for their integration with populated centres is of key importance. For example: conservation programmes and interventions that contribute to the stabilization of forests and reducing deforestation rates. In some cases, it may be needed to focus the programmes on the local level, instead of intervening at the larger Municipal level.

Along the same line, reviving the discussion on conservation and development of natural parks and their buffer zones will help to design strategies that contribute to solving the problem of coca crops in these areas, considering that 5% of the coca is located in National Parks, and another 27% within 20 km from a park. Coca continues to be a major threat to Colombia's biological and cultural diversity; 10% of the coca is in indigenous reserves and 15% in land belonging to Afro-Colombian communities.

Finally, monitoring and analysis of the impact of increased cocaine production will be important for effective policy and programme development. It seems that increase in the availability of cocaine in domestic and foreign markets does not have a direct impact on prices at destination. According to the World Drug Reports 2018 (<https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/en/maps-and-graphs.html>), the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), cocaine prices in consumer markets have remained relatively stable while purity levels have increased considerably.

The challenges are manifold, not only for Colombia and its undeniable commitment to fight drug production, but also for the global community. The consolidation of peace must be accompanied by institutional presence capable of providing conditions for security and the rule of law. The main objective will be to facilitate and reinforce the role of the state and promote integrated rural development activities, reduce vulnerabilities and transform the territories of Colombia.