

3.1.3 Colombia

FACT SHEET - Colombia Survey 2006⁶

	2005	Variation on 2005	2006
Net coca cultivation (rounded total)	86,000 ha	-9%	78,000 ha
Of which			
Meta-Guaviare region	25,970 ha	-21%	20,540 ha
Pacific region	17,650 ha	+7%	18,810 ha
Putumayo-Caqueta region	13,950 ha	+23%	17,220 ha
Central region	15,630 ha	-22%	12,130 ha
Elsewhere	12,570 ha	-27%	9,170 ha
Reported cumulative aerial spraying of coca bush	138,775 ha	+24%	172,025 ha
Reported manual eradication of coca bush	31,285 ha	+32%	41,346 ha
Average farm-gate price of coca paste	US\$ 910/kg COP 2,109,000/kg	-3% -2%	US\$ 879/kg COP 2,070,000/kg
Potential production of cocaine In % of world cocaine production	640 mt 65%	-5%	610 mt 62%
Average cocaine price (wholesale)	US\$ 1,860/kg COP 4,315,000/kg	-5% -4%	US\$ 1,762/kg COP 4,155,000/kg
Reported opium poppy cultivation	1,950 ha	-48%	1,023 ha
Potential opium latex production	59 mt	-48%	31 mt
Potential heroin production	2.5 mt	-48%	1.3 mt
Average farm-gate price of opium latex	US\$ 230/kg	+3%	US\$ 237/kg
Average heroin price (wholesale)	US\$ 9,050/kg	+12%	US\$ 10,103/kg
Reported seizures of cocaine	173,265 kg	-27%	127,326 kg
Reported seizures of heroin	745 kg	-41%	442 kg
Reported number of clandestine laboratories ⁷ destructed	1,953	+16%	2,270

Cultivation and eradication of coca

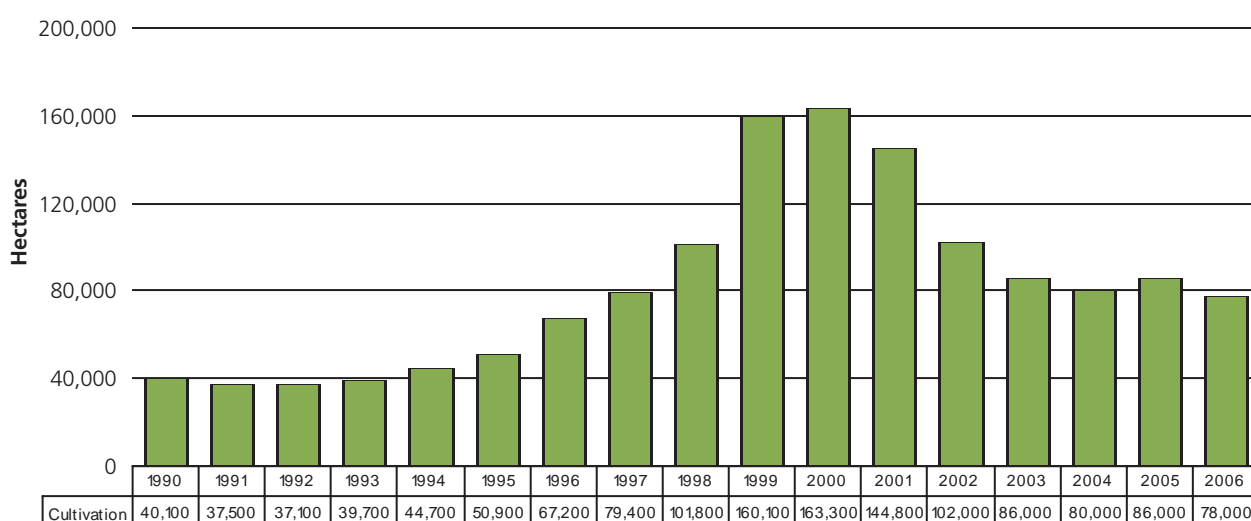
In 2006, Colombia remained the country with the world's largest coca growing area, which represented one half of the global area under coca bush. Coca cultivation in Colombia declined by 9 per cent from 86,000 hectares in 2005 to only 78,000 hectares in 2006. Overall, despite the increases and decreases observed in recent years, coca cultivation in Colombia has proven to be relatively stable at around 80,000 hectares since 2003.

Meta-Guaviare remains the largest cultivation region with almost 21,000 hectares of coca bush, or just over a quarter of the total coca cultivation area, closely followed by the Pacific and Putumayo-Caqueta regions. Considerable decreases in the Meta-Guaviare, Central and Orinoco regions in 2006 were partly offset by strong increases in the Putumayo-Caqueta region, once the largest cultivation region.

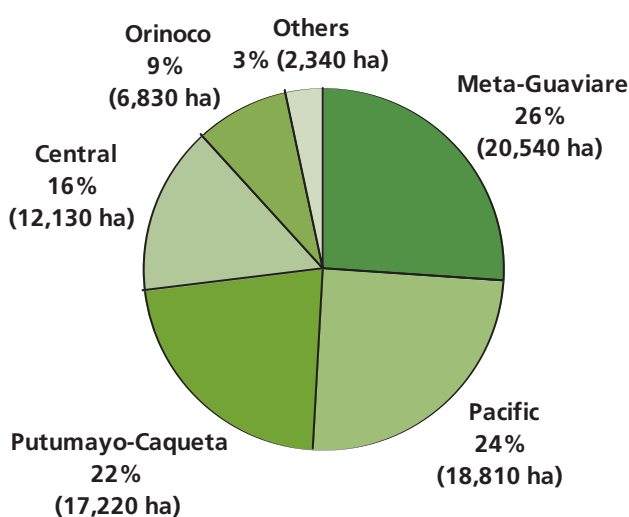
⁶ The information in this section comes from the report on Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region (UNODC/Governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, 2007), and can also be found on the internet (http://www.unodc.org/en/crop_monitoring.html).

⁷ Includes laboratories processing coca paste/base, cocaine HCl, heroin, morphine, potassium permanganate, and non-specified.

Colombia, coca cultivation (hectares), 1990 to 2006



Colombia, coca cultivation by region, 2006



In 2006, the Colombian authorities further intensified their eradication efforts, especially in higher yielding regions such as Meta-Guaviare, Orinoco and Putumayo-Caqueta. The area of coca bush eradicated reached a record level of over 213,000 hectares, which includes about 172,000 hectares of spraying and 41,346 hectares of manual eradication. The cumulative area eradicated in 2006 was 2.7 times larger than the net cultivation area, which indicates an intensity of eradication activities never reached before.

Cultivation and eradication of opium poppy

Colombia is one of the smaller opium cultivating countries and its contribution to the world opium production is declining. Opium poppy in Colombia is mainly being cultivated on mountain sides in the south-west of the country. According to Government reports, the area cul-

tivated with opium poppy continued to decline in 2006 and reached just over 1,000 hectares, a reduction by almost half compared to 2005. Eradication efforts of opium poppy remained intensive in comparison to the level of cultivation.

Production

In 2006, the potential production of cocaine HCl in Colombia amounted to 610 metric tons, a decrease by 5 per cent or 30 metric tons compared to 2005. As a consequence of this decrease and simultaneous production increases in Bolivia and Peru, Colombia's share of the world cocaine production fell from 65 per cent in 2005 to 62 per cent in 2006.

Prices for coca paste, cocaine, and opium

Overall, prices for coca-related products have been remarkably stable over the last five years in the case of coca paste and for an even longer period in the case of cocaine HCl.

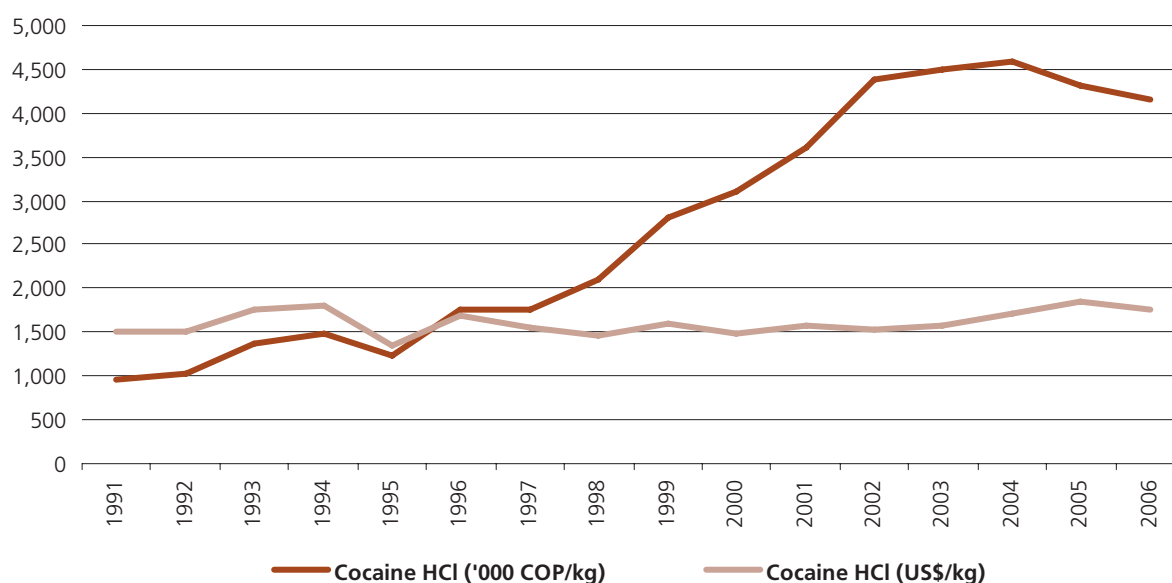
The annual average of the farm-gate prices for coca paste, the first derivative in the cocaine production chain, changed little compared to 2005. However, the annual average hides a price increase by 38 per cent from a five-year low of 1,714,000 Colombian pesos in January 2006 to 2,360,000 Colombian pesos in December 2006, which is the highest monthly average observed since the start of price monitoring in 2000. The monthly fluctuations in the price of coca paste can partly be attributed to the eradication campaigns.

Colombia, monthly farm-gate prices for coca paste ('000 COP/kg), 2000 to 2006



While wholesale prices for cocaine HCl in Colombian pesos fell for the second consecutive year, it was the first time in three years that it fell in US dollars. It is noteworthy that over the last 16 years, the national average cocaine HCl prices in US dollar terms have remained in a relatively narrow range between US\$ 1,350 and US\$ 1,860 per kg. As most of the cocaine HCl from Colombia is meant for export, US dollar prices for cocaine HCl may give a good insight into the dynamics of the international illicit drug market, as far as prices are concerned.

Colombia, annual wholesale prices for cocaine HCl (US\$ and '000 COP), 1991 to 2006

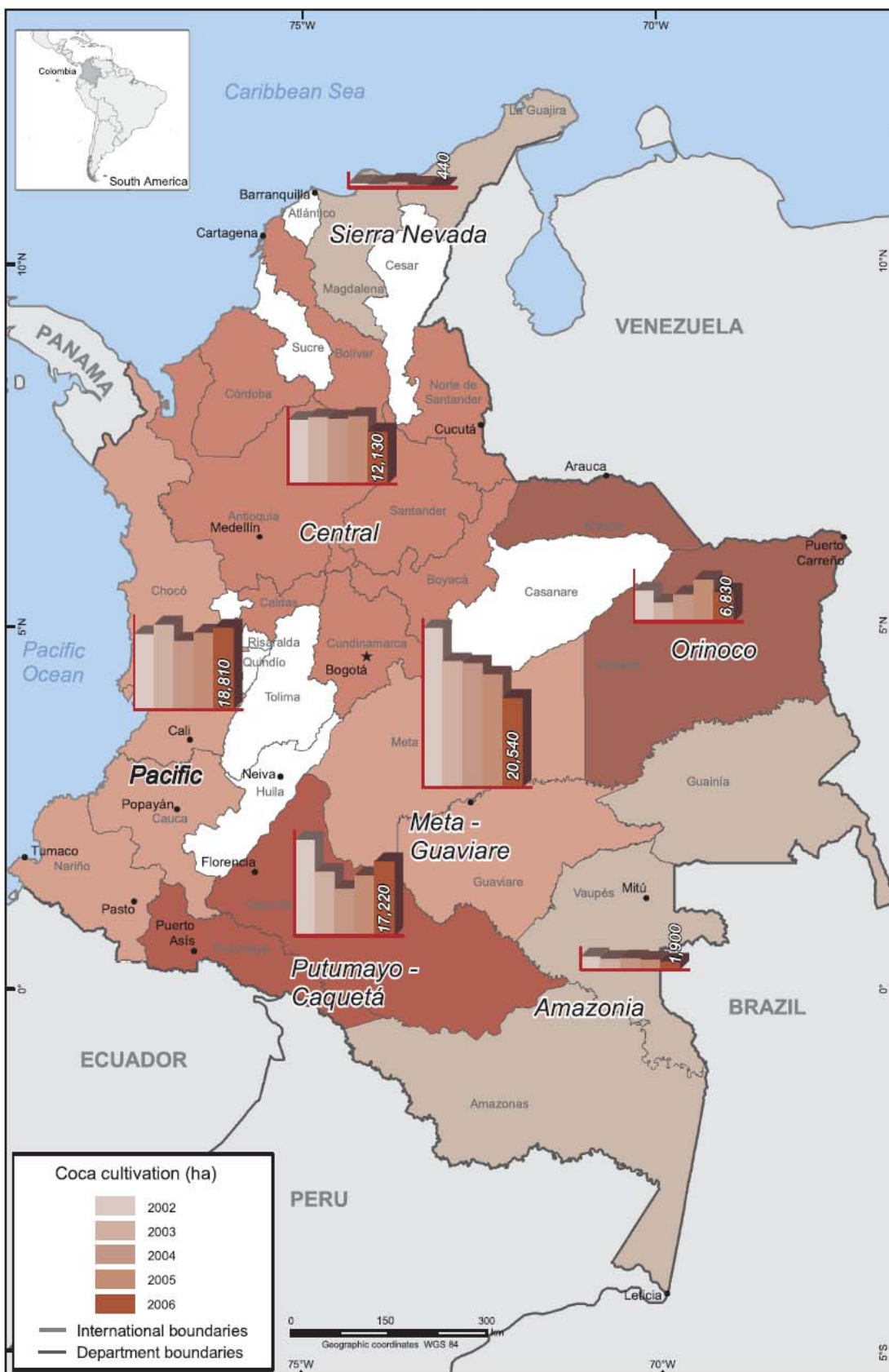


In 2006, prices for opium latex and heroin continued to increase slightly for the second consecutive year. The price increases are thought to reflect the reduction in opium poppy cultivation in Colombia.

Colombia, prices for opium latex and heroin (COP/kg and US\$/kg), 2002 to 2006

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	'000 COP	US\$	'000 COP	US\$	'000 COP	US\$	'000 COP	US\$	'000 COP	US\$
Opium latex (farm-gate)	529	211	444	154	433	164	534	230	560	237
Heroin (wholesale)	21,370	8,520	16,561	5,740	20,067	7,635	21,051	9,050	23,822	10,103

Colombia, coca cultivation by region, 2002 - 2006



Source: Government of Colombia - National monitoring system supported by UNODC. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.