

FACT SHEET – BOLIVIA COCA CULTIVATION SURVEY, 2017

Variables	Source	2016	2017	Change 2016-2017
Coca bush cultivated area by region				
Area with coca cultivation in Bolivia¹	UNODC	23,100 ha	24,500 ha	+6%
Area with coca cultivation in Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	15,700 ha	15,900 ha	+1%
Area with coca cultivation in Tropics of Cochabamba ²	UNODC	7,200 ha	8,400 ha	+17%
Area with coca cultivation in North of La Paz	UNODC	240 ha	220 ha	-8%
Area with coca cultivation in Authorized Zones ³	Plurinational State of Bolivia	12,000 ha	22,000 ha	+83%
Potential production of sun-dried coca leaves by region⁴				
Yungas of La Paz	UNODC	20,400 mt (17,800 – 20,400)	18,100 – 20,700 mt	-
Tropics of Cochabamba	UNODC	17,300 mt (14,800 – 20,000)	17,200 – 23,200 mt	-
North of La Paz	UNODC	300 mt (200 – 300)	200 – 300 mt	-
Total production of sun-dried coca leaves in Bolivia	UNODC	38,000 mt (32,800 – 40,700)	35,500 – 44,200 mt	-
Coca crops rationalization/eradication	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGPROCOCA-CEO)	6,577 ha	7,237 ha	+10%
Trading and seizures of coca leaves and controlled substances				
Coca leaf traded at authorized markets in Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	21,952 mt	22,967 mt	+5%
National nominal weighted average price of coca leaf at authorized markets	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN)	8.1 USD/ kg	9.4 USD/ kg	+16%
Estimated value of coca leaf in Bolivia ⁵	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DIGCOIN) – UNODC	USD 276 millions	USD 303 - 374 Millions	-
Value of coca leaf production in percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ⁵	UNODC	0.8%	0.8% – 1%	-
Value of coca leaf production in percent of agricultural sector GDP ⁶	UNODC	7.3%	7% – 8.7%	-
Coca leaf seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	353 mt	370 mt	+5%
Cocaine base seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	12,196 kg	13,745 kg	+13%
Cocaine hydrochloride seizures	Plurinational State of Bolivia (DG-FELCN)	17,765 kg	3,884 kg	-78%

¹ The quantification of the area with coca cultivation is based on the visual interpretation of high-resolution satellite imagery combined with field missions. The methodology was established in the frame work of the Illicit Crop Monitoring Program (ICMP) of UNODC.

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

³ Until 2016, the area with coca cultivation in Authorized Zones were regulated by the Law 1008 of July 19, 1988 on Coca and Controlled Substances Regime and the Supreme Decree No. 22099 of December 28, 1988. From 2017, the areas with coca cultivation in Authorized Zones is regulated by the new General Coca Law (Law 906), promulgated in March 2017.

⁴ The potential production of sun-dried coca leaf is in a range between a lower an upper limit, based on diferent studies carried out in 1993 by DEA, 2005 by the UNODC and 2010 by the CONALTID (Plurinational State of Bolivia). For 2017 the intermediate value of the potential production was not estimated considering that the yield factors of the studies previously mentioned are out of date, consequently there is no percentage change compared to 2016. For futher details, see Chapter 4.

⁵ These figures were calculated using the nominal price in the legal market of coca leaf in Bolivia and the potential production of sun-dried coca leaf with a lower and upper limit.

⁵ Figures calculated from the 2016 and 2017 GDP (INE).

⁶ Figures calculated from the 2016 and 2017 Agricultural Sector GDP (INE).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports the government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to provide reliable and timely information on the area and geographic location of coca crops. This information contributes to the strengthening of national policies and strategies on coca crop control in the country. UNODC provides technical assistance in the framework of the “Illicit Crops Monitoring Program” (ICMP), coordinated at UNODC’s headquarters in Vienna. The coca report is part of “UNODC’s Support Program for the Implementation of the Action Plan of the Strategy to Combat Drug Trafficking and Reduction of Coca Crops Surplus, 2011-2015 of the Plurinational State of Bolivia”, financed by the European Union and Denmark.

The Coca Crop Monitoring Report for 2017 is the 15th report published by UNODC in coordination with the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This document provides quantitative information on the extent of coca cultivation and the potential production of coca leaves in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Furthermore, it presents complementary information reported by state institutions, about the prices of coca leaves, coca leaf trade, rationalization/eradication and other related topics.

The results for 2017 show a 6% increase coca cultivation area compared to 2016. In 2017, an area of 24,500 ha was observed, compared to 23,100 ha in 2016.

In 2017, satellite images covered a total area of 19,564 km², of which 1,640 km² correspond to areas that had not been monitored in previous years. In these new areas, about 130 ha with coca cultivated were identified, confirming that most of the coca bush cultivation area in 2017 was in areas where UNODC regularly conducts surveys.

In 2017, 65% of the area with coca cultivation was quantified in the Yungas of La Paz region, 34% in the Cochabamba Tropics and 1% in the North of La Paz. Compared to 2016, the first two regions showed an increase of 200 ha and 1,200 ha respectively, while in the North of La Paz a decrease of 20 ha was observed.

In 2017, the potential production of sun-dried coca leaves in Bolivia was estimated to be between 35,500 mt and 44,200 mt. For the calculations, different studies estimating the yields were used; one conducted by the DEA in 1993, another by UNODC in 2005, and finally a study by CONALTID (Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia) in 2010.

In March 2017, the General Law of Coca (Law 906) was enacted. This law increased the area where coca can be legally produced from 12,000 to 22,000 ha, differentiating Authorized Zones and Unauthorized Zones.

The 2017 data reported by the Bolivian government on rationalization in Authorized Production Zones and eradication in Unauthorized Zones (General Coca Law 906), reached an area of 7,237 ha, a 10% increase compared to 2016.

According to official data, the volume of coca leaves commercialized at the two authorized markets reached 22,967 mt, representing an increase of 1,015 mt compared to 2016. The commercialization of 91% of the coca leaves at these markets took place at Villa Fatima market in the department of La Paz. The remaining 9% was traded at the Sacaba market located in the department of Cochabamba. According to the General Direction of Coca Leaf and Industrialization (DIGCOIN), 36% of coca leaves were destined for the department of

Santa Cruz; 16% for Tarija; 15% for Cochabamba; 11% for Potosi and the remaining 22% were destined for other departments.

The average nominal wholesale price of coca leaves at authorized markets increased by 16% from USD 8.1 per kilogram in 2016 to USD 9.4 per kilogram in 2017.

The value of coca leaf production in Bolivia was estimated to be between USD 303 and 374 million.

According to official data from the Bolivian Government, seizures diverted to illicit purposes increased by 5% from 353 mt in 2016 to 370 mt in 2017. The department where most coca leaves were seized was La Paz with 67%, followed by Cochabamba with 20%. Compared to 2016, seizures of cocaine base increased by 13%, from 12.20 mt in 2016 to 13.74 mt in 2017, while seizures of cocaine hydrochloride decreased by 78%, from 17.77 mt in 2016 to 3.88 mt in 2017. Nationwide, the departments of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba recorded the highest percentages of seized cocaine base, with 43% and 28% respectively, followed by department of La Paz (8%). The largest amount of seizures of cocaine hydrochloride were made in Santa Cruz (46%) and Beni (28%).