

CBN eradicates 151 hectares of illicit opium poppy crop



Measurement of Illicit Poppy field at Duchanu village

The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) continuing its onslaught against illicit opium poppy cultivation after eradicating the same in West Bengal, Jammu Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh and now acting on an information and verified by authentic sources, a team of officers of the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) in a sustained operation from 06th May 2008 to 20th May 2008 eradicated 151 hectares of illicit opium poppy crop cultivated in Bangan Patti

and Fateh Parwat areas in Mori Tehsil of Uttarakashi District in Uttarakhand State. The Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) team also took the assistance of local state government officials.

The illicit opium poppy was found to be cultivated in 12 villages of Bangan Patti at an altitude of 4000 to 8000 feet. The total illicit crop destroyed here was 74 hectares and most of it was in villages Jotari, Rawandhar, Kiranu, Duchanu and Makuri.

The other area Fateh Parwat which is within 'Gobind Wildlife Sanctuary', had 10 villages which had illicit poppy cultivation. Khanyasini, Satta, Droni and Masri; each of these villages had more than 10 hectares of illicit poppy cultivation. The total illicit crop cultivated in this area was 77 hectares



Illicit Opium Poppy field at Pujeli village

The villagers sow the crop in the month of September and harvest it in May-June. It is sown very high up in the hills in areas difficult to access and involve trekking for long distances. On an average these villages were 6000 to 8000 feet above sea-level. The villagers also informed that they sell the opium to people from Haryana and Punjab @ Rs 80,000 to Rs 1 lakh per kg. Incidentally, it



Destruction of Illicit Poppy field at Misri village

bordering Dodra-Kuwar Tehsil of Simla District.

may be mentioned that till 1960 opium poppy was being cultivated licitly under licence and the villagers are well aware of the practices of sowing and harvesting the opium crop. The yield of opium is estimated to be about 40-50 kgs of opium per hectare.

The officers of Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) trekked for 10-20 kms daily to cover these villages located at a hazardous terrain

The Central Bureau of Narcotics held meetings with the villagers and the Pradhan and made them aware of the Narcotics Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 as well as about the social evils of cultivating opium poppy. The villagers responded well to the awareness campaign and readily uprooted the opium crop which they had cultivated.



Destruction of Illicit Poppy field at Thapli village