



Chemical Control in the Fight Against Illicit Drug Production

THE SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIAN SCENE



UNDCP Regional Office for South Asia
**Regional Precursor Control Project for South and
South-West Asia, New Delhi, May 1998**



A World Free of Drugs; We can do it

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 provides the framework for the regulation of substances (commonly referred to as ‘precursors’) that are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. A number of countries have taken measures to monitor the movement of precursors by verifying the legitimacy of transactions and by dealing with diversions or attempted diversions from licit trade.

The regions of South Asia and South-West Asia are particularly vulnerable to attempts by traffickers to procure consignments of precursors from licit sources and to divert these to sites both within as well as outside the two regions where drugs are illicitly manufactured or produced.

This report looks at the current status of illicit drug production and precursor trafficking in the two regions, and the measures adopted by countries to deal with the problem.



Foreword

After the publication last year of UNDCP's World Drug Report, we have had requests for a similar study but with a regional focus. This is the first in a series of three reports prepared by this Regional Office. This report deals with the regulation of chemicals that are frequently used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, while the other two will deal with the magnitude of the drug problem and demand reduction activities and with law enforcement efforts to curb illicit drug production and trafficking.

More than any time before, countries in South Asia are now aware of the devastating consequences of drug abuse and trafficking not only on individuals and their families, friends and immediate communities, but also on the broader political and economic system. Ten or fifteen years ago, it would have been inconceivable for countries to accord attention to issues such as the regulation of chemicals or drug-related money laundering. That countries are now addressing these issues is a reflection both of the exponential deterioration of the illicit drug situation in the world and the commitment of the international community to deal with these issues with all seriousness. While the march towards one 'Global Village' has brought individuals and nations closer, we can no longer remain oblivious to the reality that this progress has made it much easier for traffickers and corrupt officials to defeat the control systems in place and undermine the very institutions and control mechanisms built over time.

It is my sincere hope that this report, and the other two reports that will follow shortly, will assist politicians, policy-makers, law enforcement officers, social workers and indeed the general public to have at their disposal the relevant facts and figures on precursors. It is my firm conviction that, acting individually and collectively, we could make a difference in this region. I would like to bring to the attention of the readers of the report the UNDCP motto: A world free of drugs; we can do it.

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Source Materials

This report is based on information -country background papers, staff mission reports and replies to questionnaires - available with the UNDCP Regional Office for South Asia and with the INCB Secretariat, UNDCP, Vienna. Figures 1-2 are from UNDCP's *Supply of and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1996*, Vienna, 1998; figure 3 is from UNDCP's *Annual Report on Afghanistan Opium Poppy Survey 1997*, UNDCP Regional Office for South-West Asia, Islamabad; figure 4 is based on data in Table I in UNDCP's *World Drug Report*; figures 5-8 are from the 1997 INCB Report on Precursors; and figure 9 is from the report of the Chemical Action Task Force.



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