

24 October 2019

English only*

**Forty-third Meeting of Heads of National
Drug Law Enforcement Agencies,
Asia and the Pacific**
Bangkok, 22–25 October 2019

Draft report

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Addendum

Consideration of topics by working groups

(a) Regional and international cooperation to reduce illicit cultivation and production of drugs, including alternative development

1. The working group on the above topic met during the 3rd meeting, held on 23 October 2019. In its consideration of the issue, the working group formulated the following observations and recommendations:

2. Observations

(a) Synthetic drugs, such as methamphetamine, are on a rise in the region and in many cases their manufacture and distribution levels exceed those of traditional plant-based drugs;

(b) Effective reduction of drug cultivation and drug production requires addressing the root causes of the problem. Comprehensive measures undertaken by various agencies at the national level are needed to this end;

(c) Effective (crop) substitution measures should enable target groups to build a sustainable livelihood;

(d) Addressing market access and integrating skills development programmes are key elements of successful alternative development programmes;

(e) Reducing illicit cultivation and manufacture of drugs requires dismantling related illicit businesses, including trafficking channels as well as precursor supply chains in and to the countries of origin/manufacture of drugs;

(f) Effective measures are required in countering trafficking in and diversion of precursors;

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(g) As the manufacture of synthetic drugs takes place predominantly in urban settings, relevant alternative development initiatives need to be developed responding to the different requirements in these areas;

(h) More effective measures are needed to identify and dismantle clandestine laboratories;

3. Recommendations

(a) Governments are encouraged to actively share experience and expertise in regional and international cooperation aimed at the reduction of illicit cultivation and production of drugs and at dismantling clandestine laboratories, as well as best practices in alternative development;

(b) Governments should recognize the recent exponential increase in methamphetamine production and adjust countermeasures accordingly. International and regional cooperation in preventing and dismantling supply chains of precursors and distribution channels of the final products should be prioritized;

(c) Governments should undertake sustainable alternative development measures based on innovative and evidence-based approaches to enable target groups to build a sustainable livelihood, in both rural and urban areas.
