



**BADAKHSHAN - OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION**

**Afghanaid**

DISTRIBUTION : ODA/USAID/DAI/IRC/UNFDAC/UNDP/UNOCA/STATE DEPT.

17 July 1990

Dear sir

We refer to our letter of 24 June 1990 regarding the cutting of opium poppy in Badakhshan and would like to bring to your attention again that this year one of the biggest opium producing valleys in the province has stopped growing poppies.

The economic impact of this on the local population is severe and if we are to capitalise on this opportunity we need to provide a realistic level of inputs to target on the areas concerned.

Afghanaid has put together a package of \$125,000 for this area but it will not be sufficient to prevent the rural population from returning to poppy cultivation in the next year:

Afghanaid carried out a survey and produced a report on its findings in November 1989; this has been widely distributed and clearly states the commitment of the commanders and village elders to supporting an attempt to eradicate opium in the province as well as the level of opium production that is involved.

It is of the utmost importance that action is taken now. As yet there has been little response to our previous letter. We would appreciate an early reply to this important matter.

Yours sincerely

William Bashall  
Project Officer Badakhshan.

cc Peter Rees.

c.c. William.

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COVER LETTER

**Afghanaid**

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June 24th 1990

Dear

Please find attached a brief report concerning opium poppy eradication in Badakshan.

For further background, please refer to Afghanaid's 'Badakshan Opium Survey, 1989'.

Afghanaid have already targeted over US\$ 400,000 for Badakshan this year, mostly on agricultural projects. Plans are almost finalised for an immediate assistance package related to the recent opium eradication of US\$ 125,000.

These sums will not be sufficient for the main reduction areas however, where separate targeted projects are required.

There is justifiable concern that if assistance is not provided in the near future, there will be strong economic pressures to restart cultivation of opium poppy.

The reductions in these areas are the most significant step forward in poppy eradication since the beginning of the war. In order to capitalise on this opportunity for long term eradication, Afghanaid requests interested parties to contact either myself or the listed contacts, to discuss in more depth the findings from this recent mission.

Yours sincerely,

Other contacts

William Bashall, Projects Officer,  
Badakshan

Terry Giles, Projects Officer

Peter Rees,  
Field Director

## INTRODUCTION

In May an Afghanaid projects officer spent one month in Badakshan to monitor an ongoing food distribution, assess the impact of last year's improved seed programmes, discuss plans for UNOCA food distribution this year, discuss Afghanaid's 1990 project plans with the concerned parties and investigate reports that commander Najmuddin has stopped all opium poppy cultivation in his area.

This brief report is concerned only with the last objective.

In 1989 Afghanaid made a study of opium poppy cultivation in Badakshan, funded through UNFDAC.

This report confirmed that Khalid Basir Khan had stopped opium production in all areas under his control the previous year. It also confirmed that Badakshan was a major area of poppy cultivation, especially concentrated in the Jurm region.

Using the data collected from this mission, it was easy this year to follow up the claims of total eradication, as all the producing valleys were well known and easily located.

The project officer travelled to all the major producing areas around Jurm (please see attached map), but did not travel to Daraim, Gandom Qol, Warduj or Zebak.

## FINDINGS

The project officer travelled extensively throughout the area, and did not find a single opium poppy plant.

The following are some quotes from his internal report:

1. "It is important to note that Badakshan has produced opium and it's by-products for many years; some of the land that it grows on will often grow nothing else and it provides a good source of income to the poor population. In 1988 poppy cultivation was stopped in Yaftal and in 1990 it has been stopped in Jurm and Khosh. This has had a great effect on the population, particularly in Yaftal where the population have few agricultural options to turn to."

## 2. "Bazaar prices, Jurm/Baharak

	JURM	BAHARAK
Wheat	1,420 afs/seer	1,380 afs/seer
Barley	1,200 afs/seer	1,200 afs/seer
Rice	2,200 afs/seer	2,250 afs/seer
Ghee	3,700 afs/seer	3,600 afs/seer
Flour	1,580 afs/seer	
Urea	4,600 afs/bag	4,500 afs/bag
Sugar	500 afs/kg	550 afs/kg
Kerosene	2,500 afs/seer	
Tea	1,500 afs/kg	
Potatoes	550 afs/seer	
Meat	600 afs/kg	
DAP		5,500 afs/bag

## 3. Khosh

"Khosh valley lies to the north west of Jurm. It is nearly all over 2,000m and the supply of water is a severe restriction on the production of good agricultural crops. It was, up to this year, one of the main opium producing valleys in Badakshan. This year Najmuddin has stopped all opium production in his areas, certainly in Khosh, as hard as I looked, I could not find a single field. I believe that on the higher land in the mountains, though I did not see opium poppy, it may be grown in small quantities. It is difficult even for the commanders to control this. The important point is that the main valley that was poppy last year is now free of poppy cultivation. We have surveys on a number of small streams and a dam which are not within the range of our existing funding this year. If we are to encourage the increase in food production through the stopping of opium cultivation, this area must receive our attention."

## 4. Yaftal

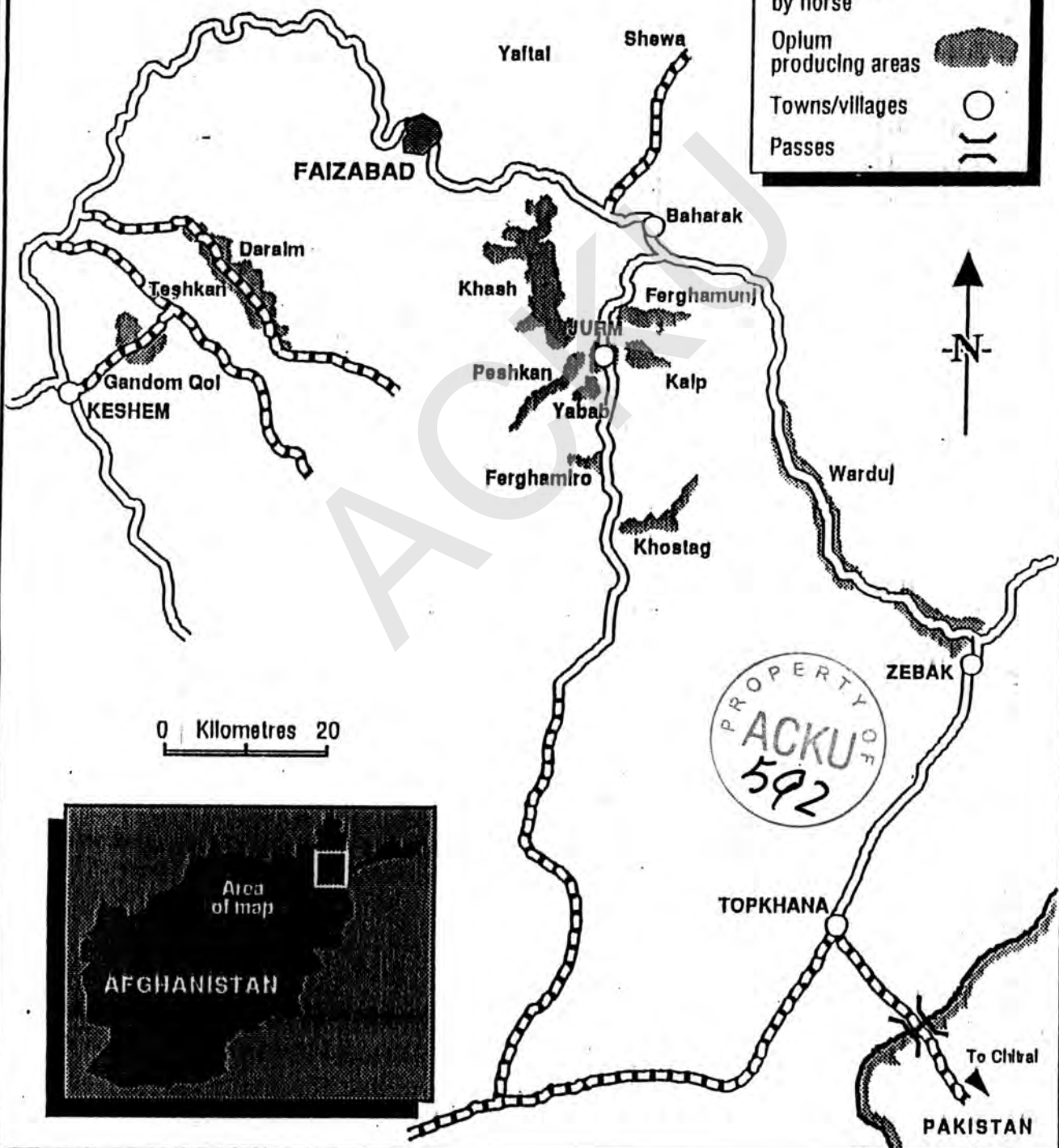
"Opium was stopped here in 1988 as the price of wheat was being pushed up, as well as reasons of health and Islam. It is a difficult area to help agriculturally."

## 5. (under conclusions)

"The cutting of opium poppy in Jurm and Khosh is extremely important for our projects. If help is not received this year for these areas to compensate for the loss of income, they will certainly and understandably go back to cultivation next year."

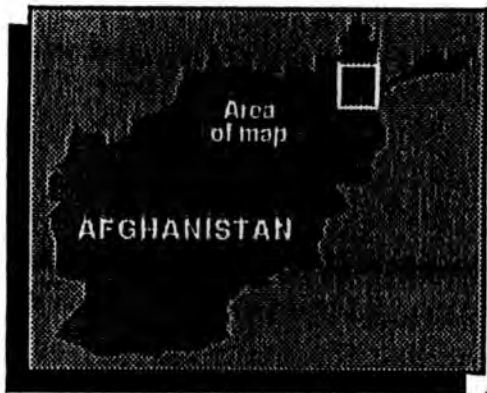
# The Opium Producing Areas of Badakhshan

KEY	
Roads passable by vehicle	====
Roads passable by horse	⊔⊔⊔⊔
Opium producing areas	■
Towns/villages	○
Passes	⌋⌋



0 Kilometres 20

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