



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

Illicit crops reduction is about people,  
not only about illicit plants

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*Coca field in Guaviare department, March 2005*



*Coca cultivation interspersed with licit crop, Arauca, 2004*

## Coca cultivation in Colombia



*Newly established coca fields, Arauca department, February 2005*



*Coca fields in Nariño department (surrounded by edge rows)*



## Coca crops in Colombia

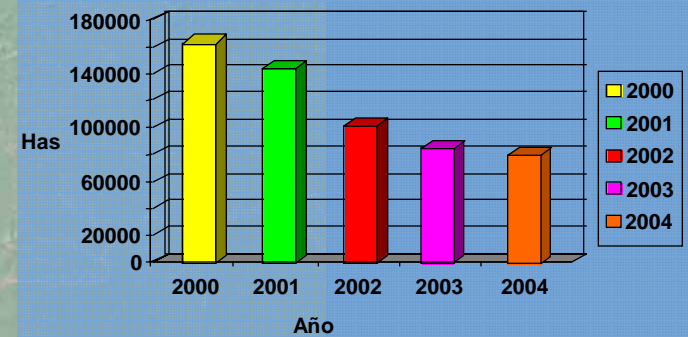
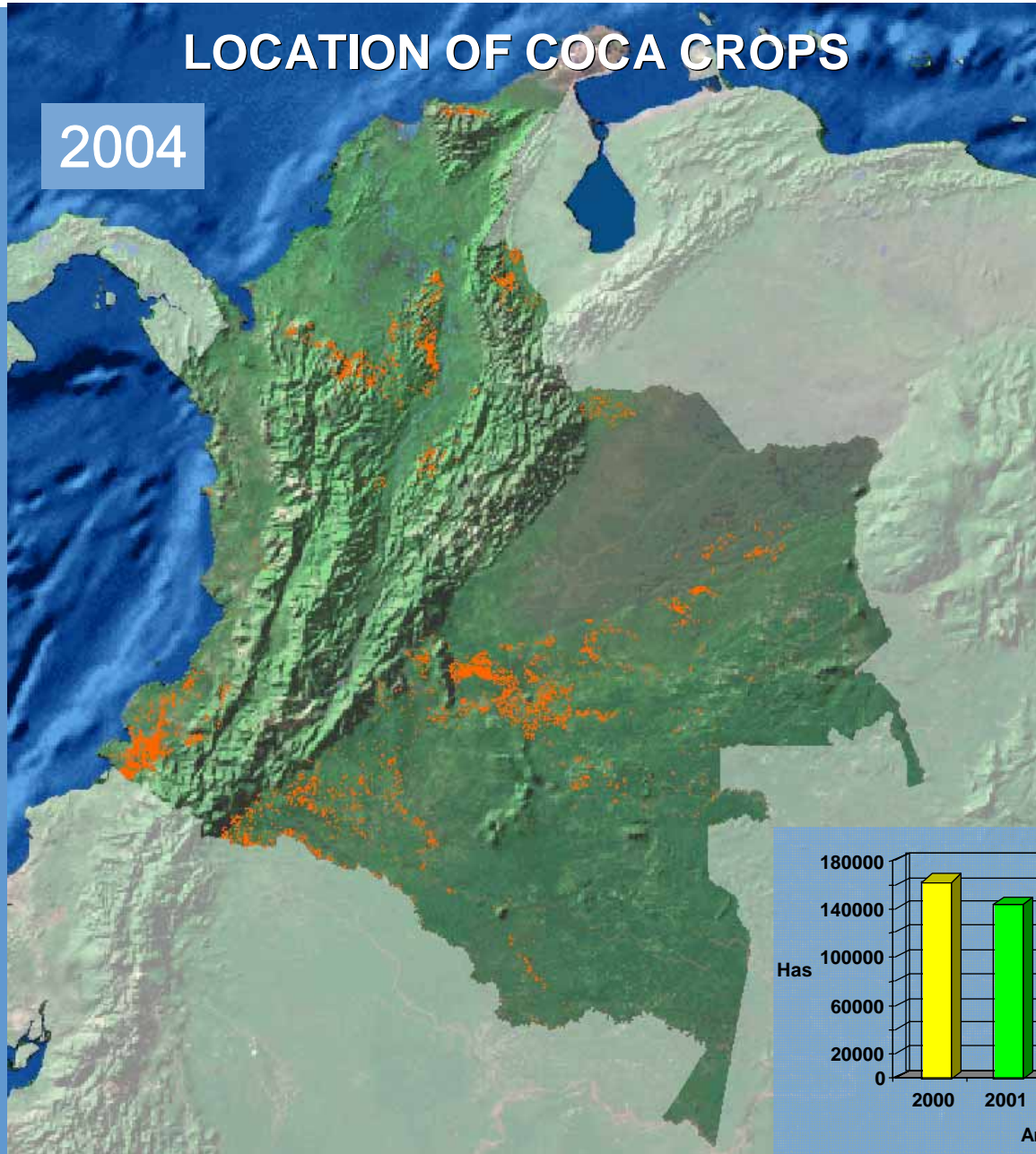
- 80.000 hectares under coca cultivation and approximately 100.000 families working on them.
- Although there has been an important reduction of 51% since 2000, the new crops in 2004 represented approximately 62% of the total cultivated area.
- This high percentage of new crops is the main obstacle to a sustainable reduction.





## LOCATION OF COCA CROPS

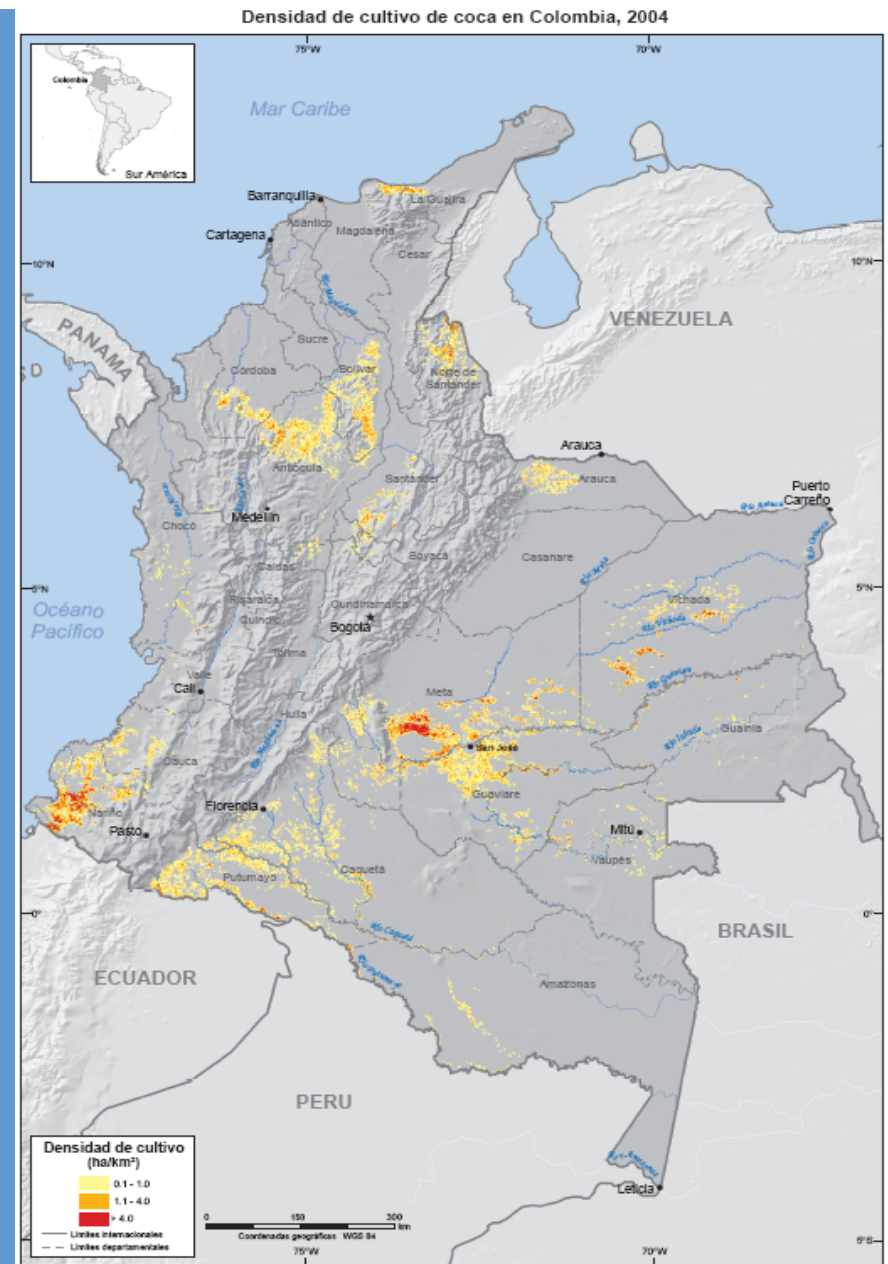
2004





## Situation of coca crops in Colombia, 2004

- The results show a growing trend in new zones and traditional agro areas.
- High displacement of coca crops.
- Nearly 60% of the plots are new.



Fuente: Gobierno de Colombia - Sistema de monitoreo apoyado por UNODC  
Los límites, nombres y títulos usados en este mapa no constituyen reconocimiento o aceptación por parte de las Naciones Unidas

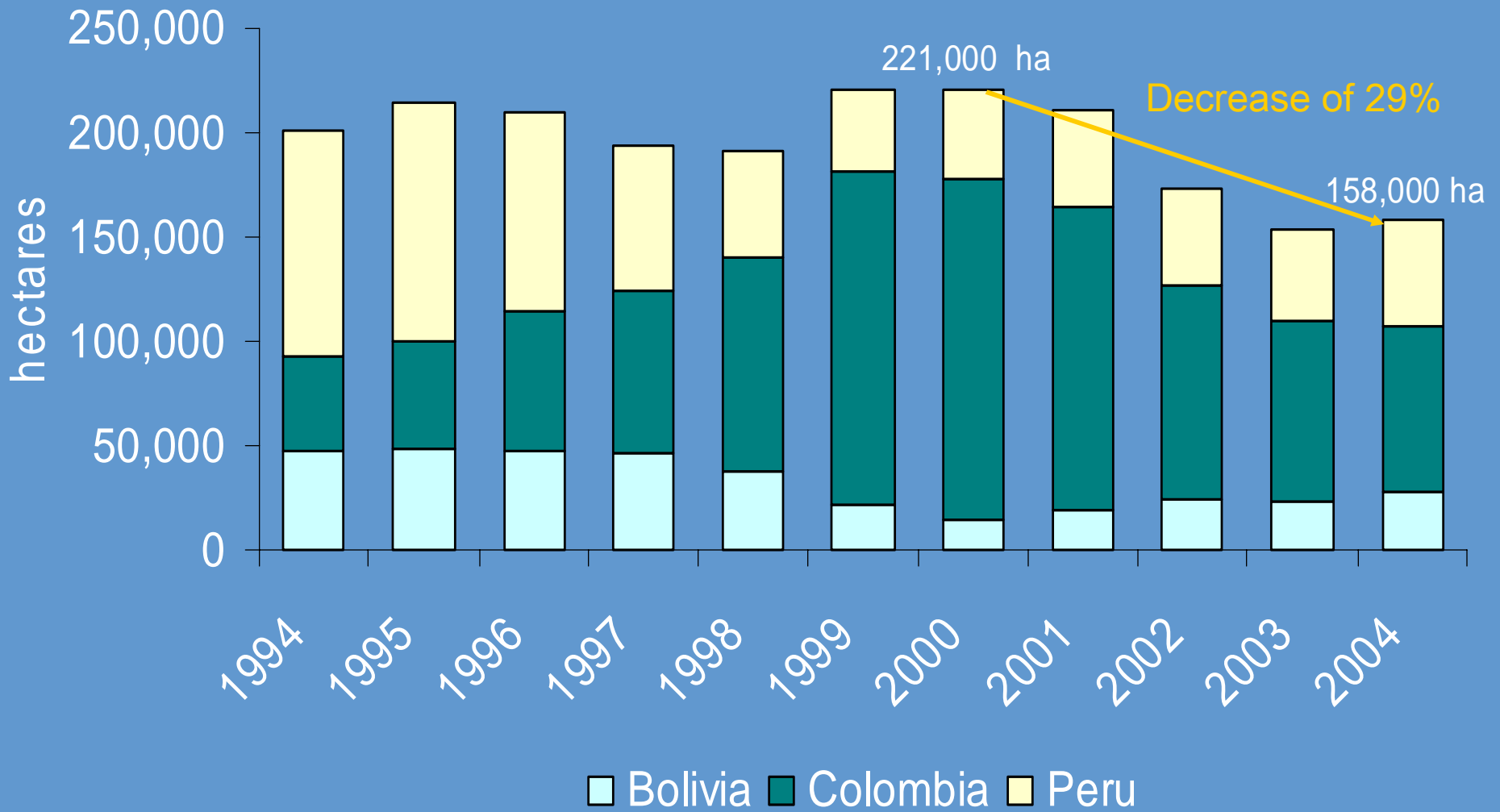


## Difficulties for a sustainable reduction

- The reduction can be attributed in large part to the **aerial spraying** and **manual eradication** policies. 139.200 hectares were sprayed and eradicated in 2004.
- However, the great mobility of coca cultivation and the difficulties to find alternative options contribute to a high increase of crops each year.
- Coca does not grow by itself in the forests.
- It is due to the fact that every day small farmers have to face isolation and lack of marketing opportunities for their products.

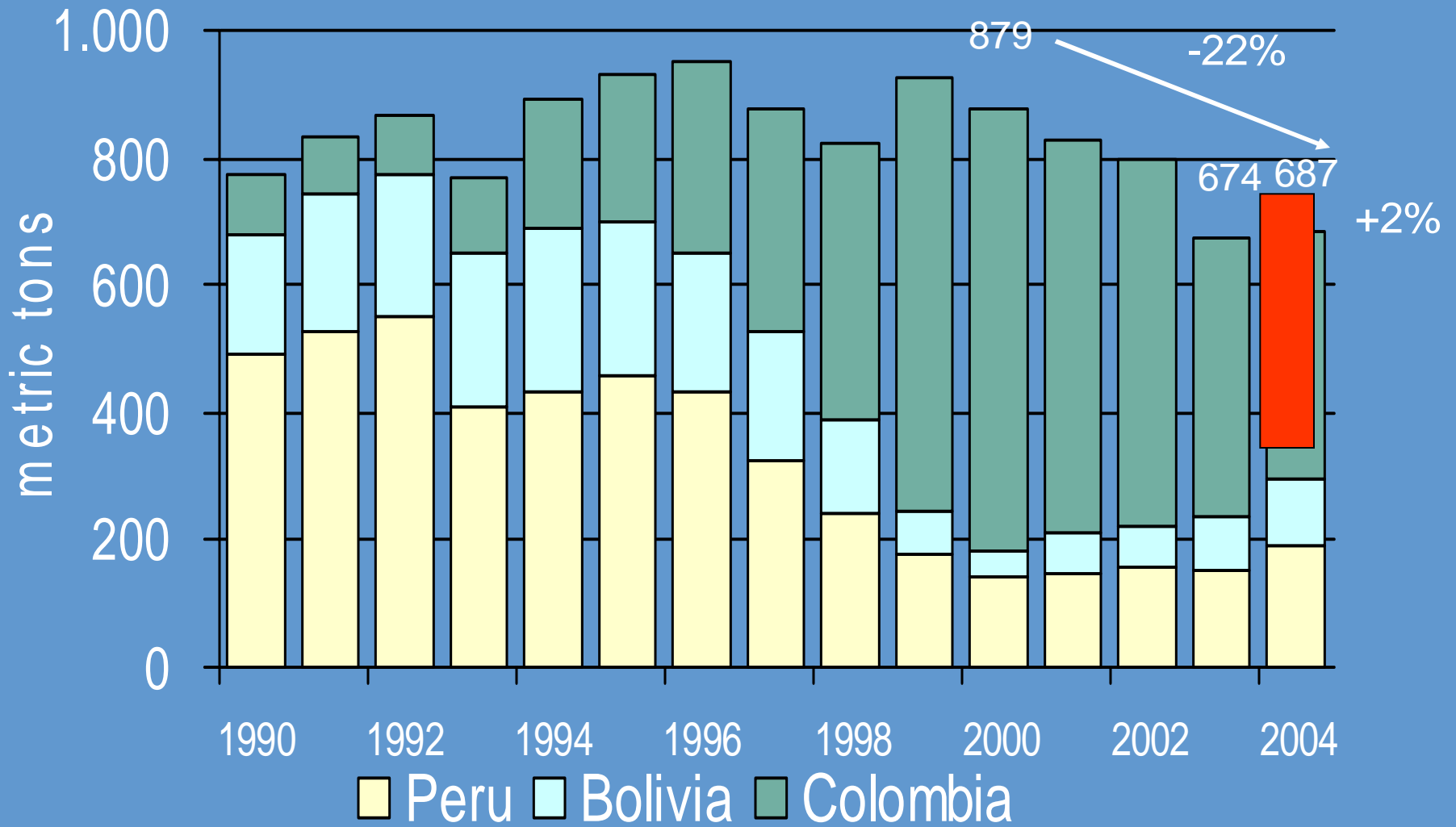


## EVOLUTION OF COCA CROPS





## World Production of cocaine, 1990-2004



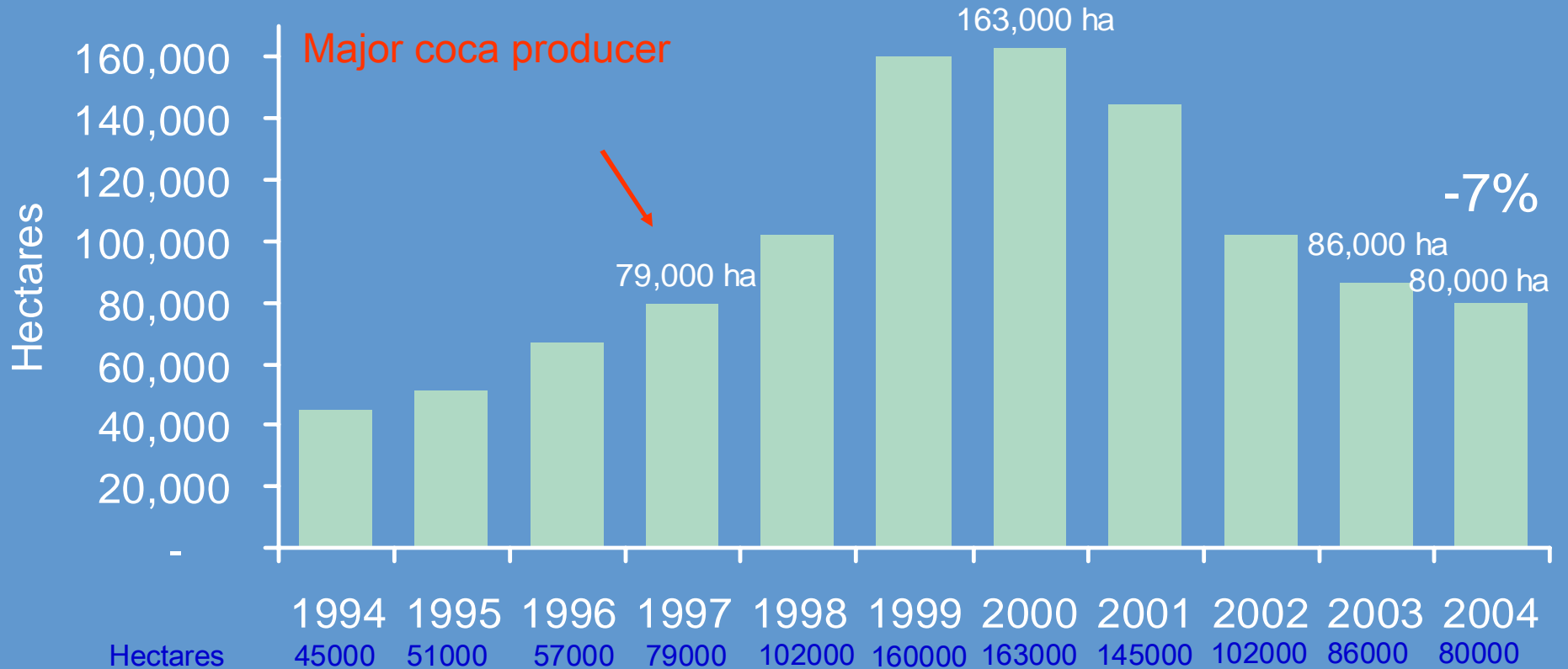




## Colombia, coca crops since 1994

Aerial fumigation and  
alternative development

Decrease of 51%



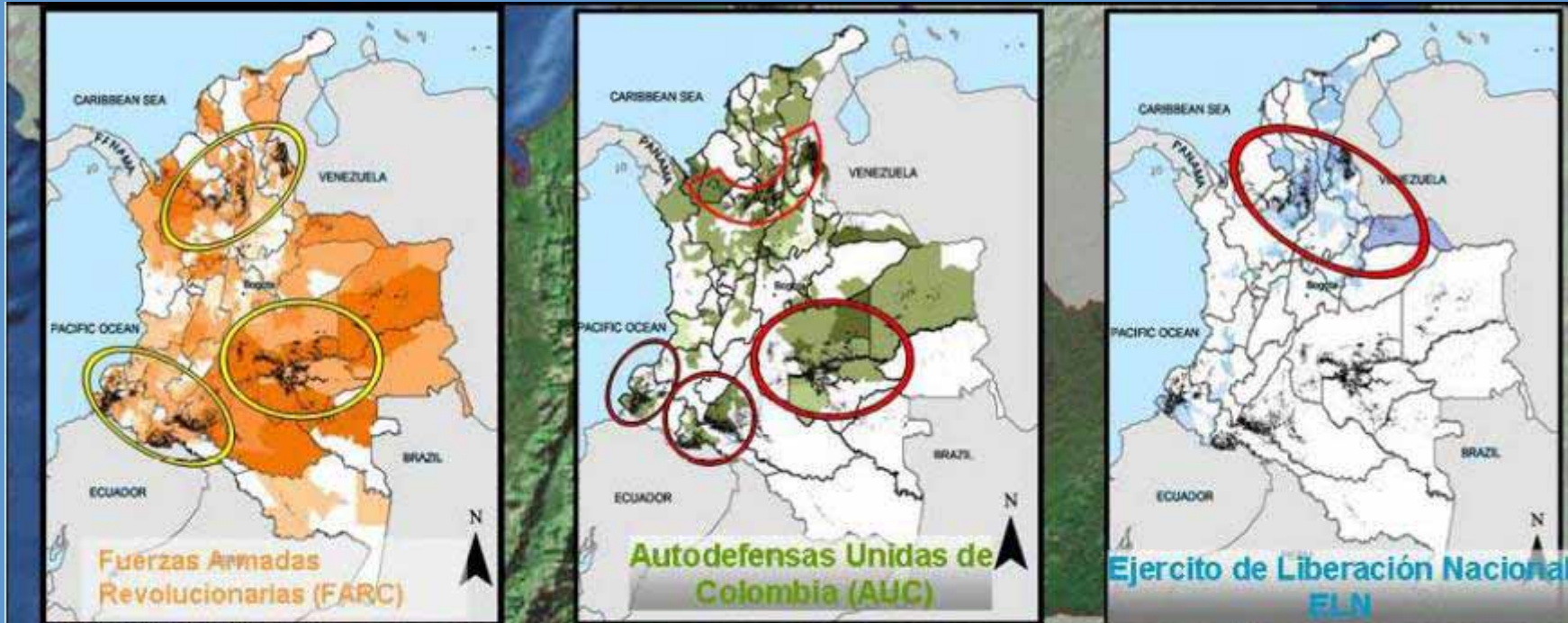


## Drugs finance the armed conflict in Colombia

- Drug problem in Colombia is related to the armed conflict.
- Illegal armed groups monopolise the purchase and sale of coca base and opium poppy latex.
- They “tax” the traffickers, laboratories, runways, etc.
- They have territorial control of the production and promote illicit crops in their areas of influence.
- The income of drug trafficking is strong currency in the international arms market.
- According to a research of the National Planning Department, 60% and 70% of the income of the FARC and the AUC respectively, come from drugs.



## Presence of armed groups in Colombia



Source: Ministry of Defence

Coca crops have been detected in 189 municipalities. Guerrilla groups have presence in 162 and paramilitary groups in 86 of them.



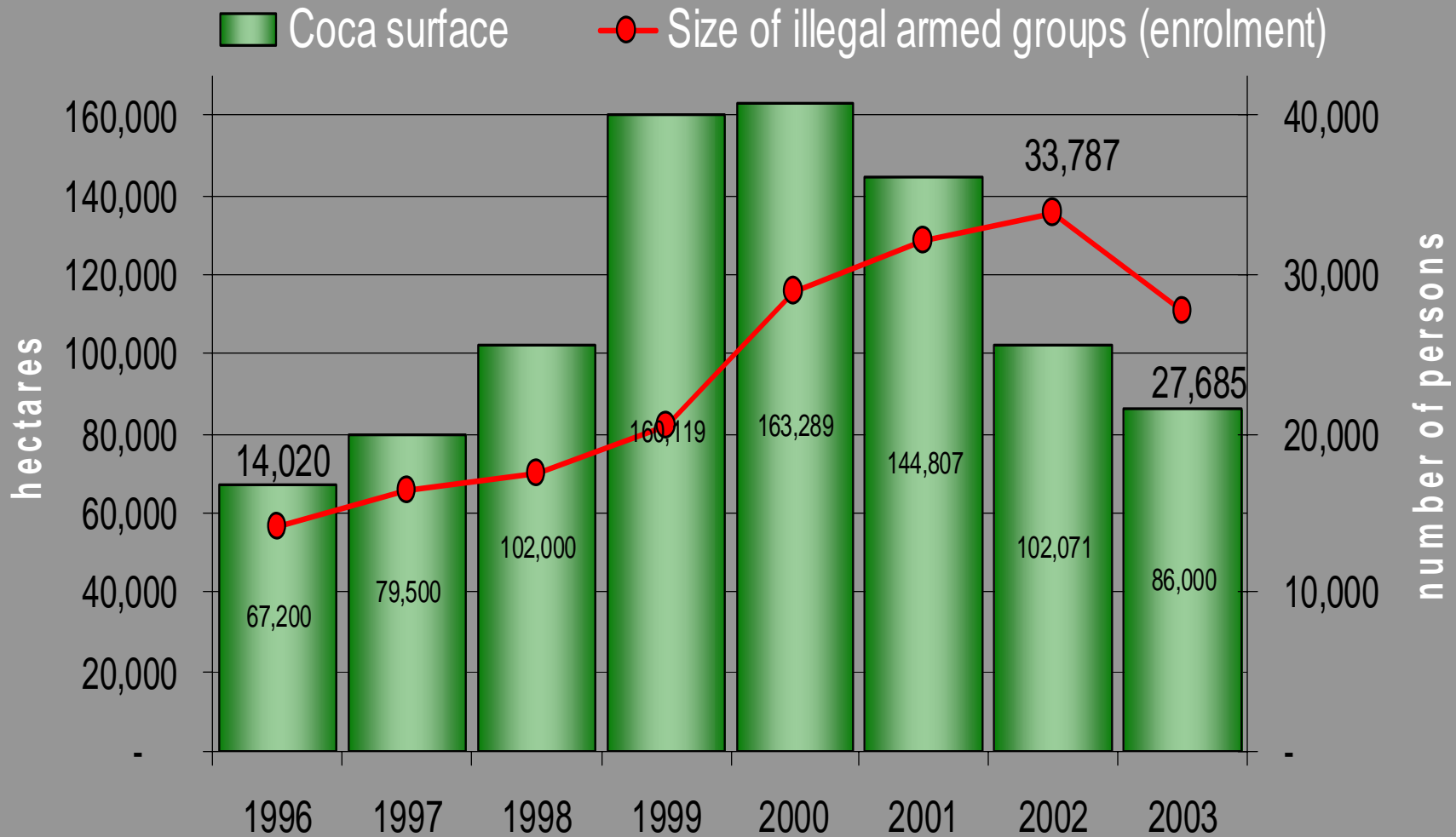
Presence in most of the country

Has been growing steadily, and has influence in strategic areas of the drug trafficking.

Began its expansion process mainly in the northern part of the country in 2000. The major presence of ELN is located in the southern part of the Bolivar and Catatumbo areas.



## Coca Cultivation and Armed Groups in Colombia





## **The relationship between armed conflict and drug trafficking is not exclusive to Colombia**

- Asia's opium poppy and heroin production have moved towards countries that are facing endemic wars.
- In Afghanistan and Myanmar, the Taliban and the Burmese ethnic guerillas finance their operations with the profits resulting from the drug sale.
- Peru reached a record of 210,000 hectares of coca in 1990, while there was an increase in the attacks by the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso), mainly financed by these illegal crops.
- In Thailand and Uzbekistan, the record poppy crops coincided with the greatest clashes between ethnic minorities.
- In 2000, the record 163,000 hectares of coca in Colombia, coincided with the unprecedented number of abductions –2,840 cases, and the attacks to the population -142 that year.



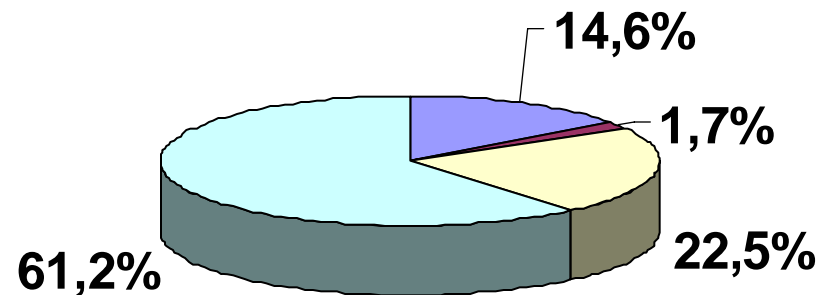


## **The property concentration contributes to rural poverty, displacement, armed groups, land concentration and illicit crops.**

- 0,4% of land owners own 61,2 % of the rural areas in Colombia - 47.147.680 hectares.
- The majority of these farms are larger than 500 hectares.
- 97% of registered owners own only 24, 2% of the national rural area -18.646.473 hectares.



## Relationship between owners and national rural lands. According to the plot size



■ Plots between 100 and 500 ha. ■ Plots smaller than 3 ha.  
■ plots between 3 and 100 ha. ■ plots larger than 500 ha.

57.3% of land owners possess 1.7% of rural lands.  
39.7% of land owners possess 22.5% of rural lands.  
2.6% of land owners possess 14.6% of rural lands.  
0.4% of land owners possess 61.2% of rural lands.



## Land concentration, drug trafficking and armed conflict

- Land concentration has increased and the cultivated has dramatically decreased during the past 10 years.
- This is associated with the narco-trafficking.
- Land accumulation gives the drug traffickers a chance to be recognized as land owners.
- The traffickers have strongly contributed to the farmers' migration to agricultural areas where the main activity is the cultivation of illicit crops.
- Approximately 4, 4 million hectares of land are owned by the traffickers.

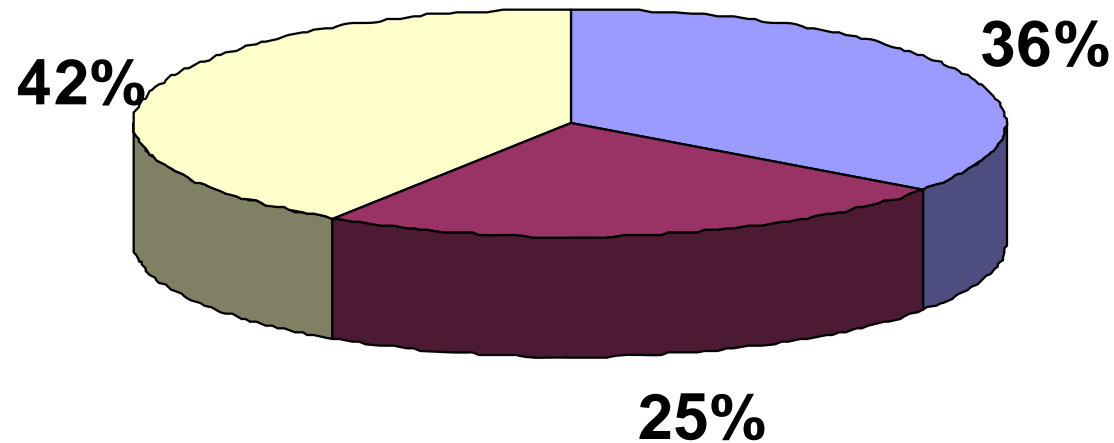





## Land concentration affects the small farmers

- Land concentration in Colombia is one of the main concerns for the beneficiaries of the Alternative Livelihoods Projects.
- In the context of the Forest Ranger Program, only 36% of the families own their land and are legally entitled to it, 25% possess land but without a legal title and 42% live in farms owned by others.



## Land concentration and Forest Ranger Program



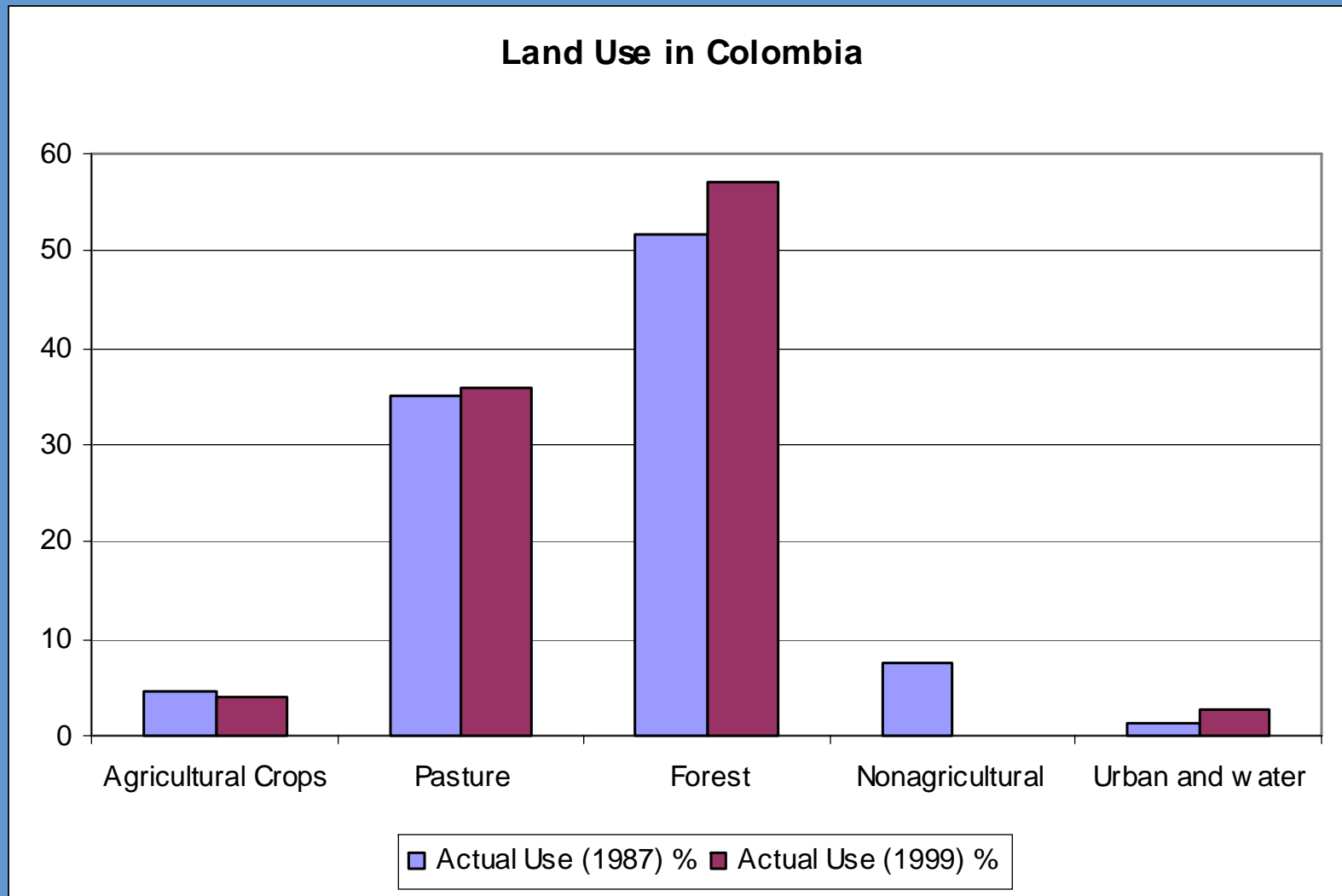
-  families own their land and are legally entitled
-  families possess land but without a legal title
-  families live in farms owned by others





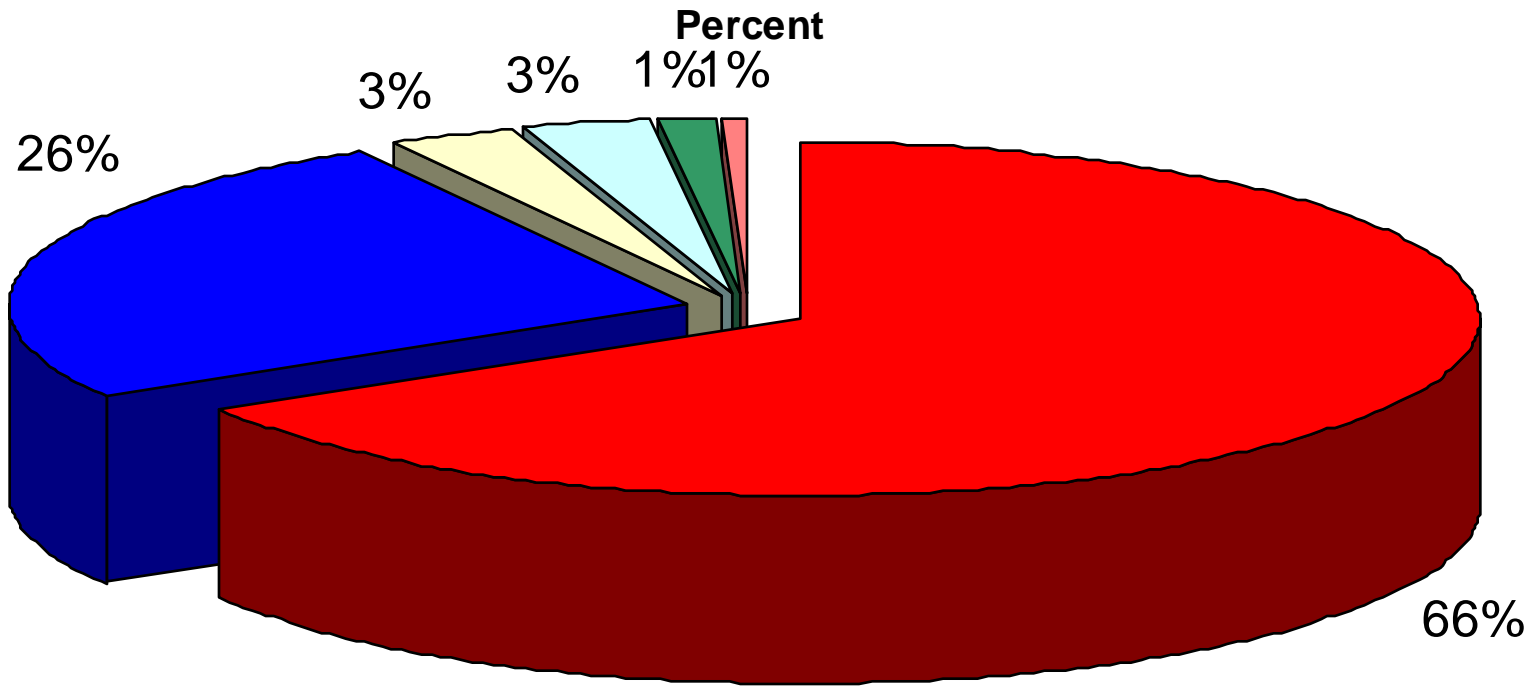
## Land Use in Colombia

- Only 3.6% of rural land is dedicated to agricultural activities.
- 50,7% is covered by forest; 26% by grass; 10% savannah vegetation; other - 3,6%; water - 2,7%, and bush - 1,1%.
- Almost 36,34 million hectares of rural areas of the country are wrongly used, since they are dedicated to activities that do not correspond to their agro environmental condition.
- Areas appropriate for competitive agriculture are dedicated to cattle and vice versa. Similarly, agro forestal lands are used for extensive cattle farming.





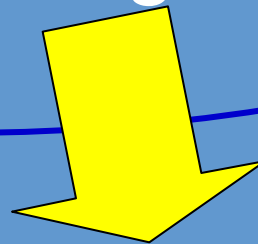
### DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECT EMPLOYMENT CREATED BY ACTIVITIES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE IN COLOMBIA, 2002



- |                   |                      |                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ AGRICULTURE (1) | ■ CATTLE FARMING (2) | ■ POULTRY KEEPING (3) |
| ■ PIG FARMING (4) | ■ FORESTRY (5)       | ■ FISHING (6)         |



Alternative Development  
Promotion of social capital  
Access to markets  
Access to micro credits  
Safety of marketing



End of the illegal economy



## Alternative Development Products





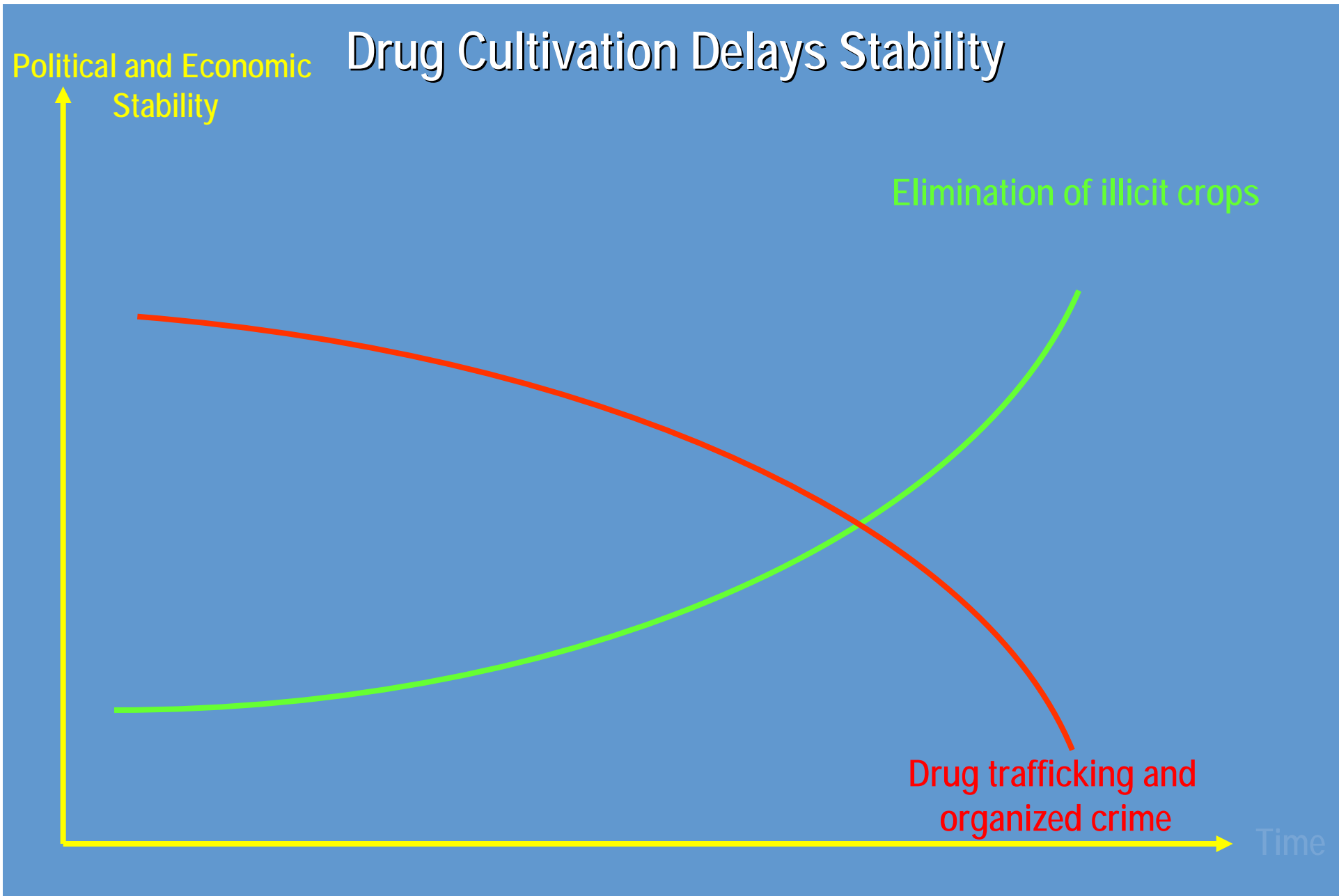
## Drug Cultivation Delays Stability

Political and Economic  
Stability

Elimination of illicit crops

Drug trafficking and  
organized crime

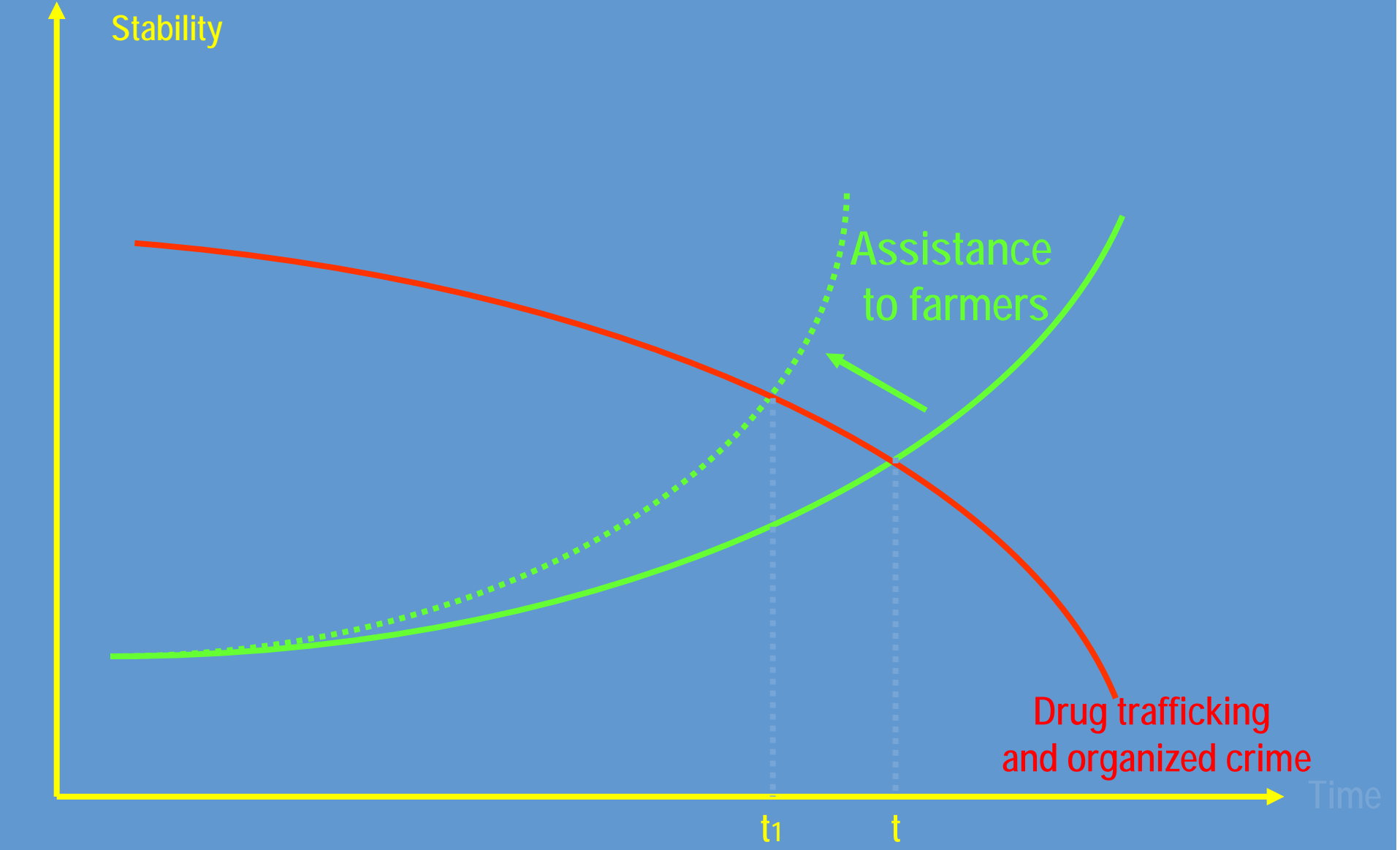
Time





# Alternative Development Accelerates Stability

Political and economic  
Stability



Assistance  
to farmers

Drug trafficking  
and organized crime

Time

$t_1$

$t$



## The factors that alternative development strategy must take into account are:

1. Creation of productive local infrastructure and transfer of technology.
2. Consolidation of the transformation channels and safe marketing with guarantees.
3. Identification and protection of areas for forest conservation and reforestation, respecting the rules of the environment laws and environmental authorities.





## UNODC recommends to undertake a simultaneous and coordinated work in four areas:

1. Social Strengthening
2. Promotion of production lines
3. Agro industry and marketing to generate added value
4. Monitoring





## Operational activities

Since 1996 **UNODC** support has:

- Reached more than **8,000 farmer families**.
- Promoted products such as meat, milk, forestry and wood products, coffee, cacao, plantains, fruits and palm hearts.
- Contributed to the elimination of some **6,000 hectares of illicit crops**.
- Farmed more than **50,000 hectares of licit crops**.

## Support to productive projects







## Operational activities:

### Support to productive projects

**UNODC** has focused support on:

- Linking farmers to European markets through **Fair Trade Labelling Organizations (FLO International)** and **Max Haavelar**.
- Opening market access in Colombia (Carrefour)
- In 2004 **UNODC** generated agricultural produce sales worth more than **US\$ 2 million** through direct sales to various distribution chains.





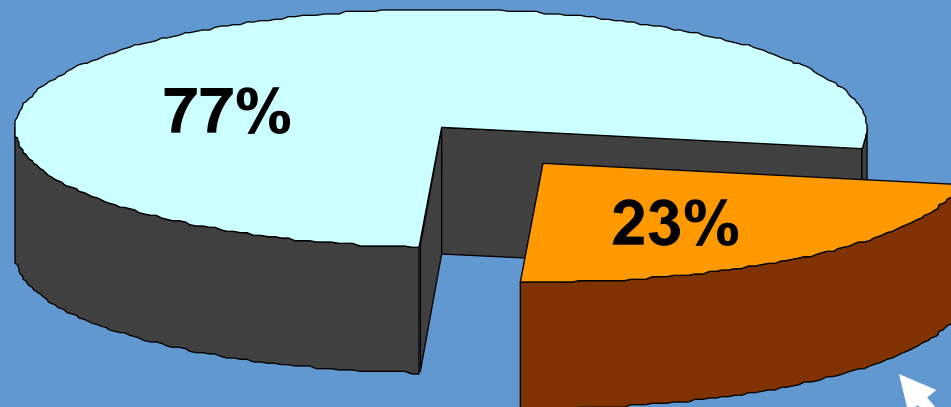
## The Colombian commitment to reduce the illicit crops is not questionable

- We could accelerate the reduction process by investing in solutions for the farmers and creating profitable and sustainable options that improve their quality of life
- European commitment to the cause should at least match the Colombian strong will to accelerate the sustainable elimination of illicit crops



## Andean Region: Inadequate AD support

Families without alternative development support



Families with alternative development support



**Every time a person sniffs cocaine in Europe, a poor Colombian person bleeds as a result**

- Only a joint and consistent multilateral plan based on established good practices can offer better human security to both sides.

**In such a process a great deal of vision and leaderships will be necessary**



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

*I de svåraste stunderna visar  
sig de riktiga vännerna.*



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# Thank you



[www.unodc.org/colombia](http://www.unodc.org/colombia)