



Long the world's largest producer of opium, the raw ingredient of heroin, Afghanistan has now become the top supplier of cannabis, with large-scale cultivation in half of its provinces, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Between 10,000 and 24,000 hectares of cannabis are grown every year in Afghanistan, with major cultivation in 17 out of 34 provinces, the UN drug agency (UNODC) said in its first report on cannabis production in Afghanistan.

While some countries grow cannabis on more land, Afghanistan's robust crop yields - 145 kg of resin per hectare compared to around 40 kg per hectare in Morocco—make it the world's largest producer, estimated at 1,500-3,500 tonnes a year.

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