

**OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION  
CENTRAL HELMAND, AFGHANISTAN:**

**A CASE STUDY IN BAD PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

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**ABSTRACT**

Following the fall of the Taliban in 2001, no one was responsible for the overall poppy eradication and rehabilitation program in the central Helmand region of Afghanistan. Farmers' expectations were great, however, because of the promises made by international donors of a massive reconstruction program. Early projects, especially those that employed thousands rehabilitating the irrigation system and supported by local government, dramatically reduced opium production by 85% in Nad-i-Ali district in crop year 2002-2003. By the following year funding ended. Local government was helpless without foreign support. The continuing inconsistent program has resulted in farmer and local government disillusionment,

deterioration of security, increased government corruption and record-setting opium harvests. The harvest of 2007 is set to be another record high.

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