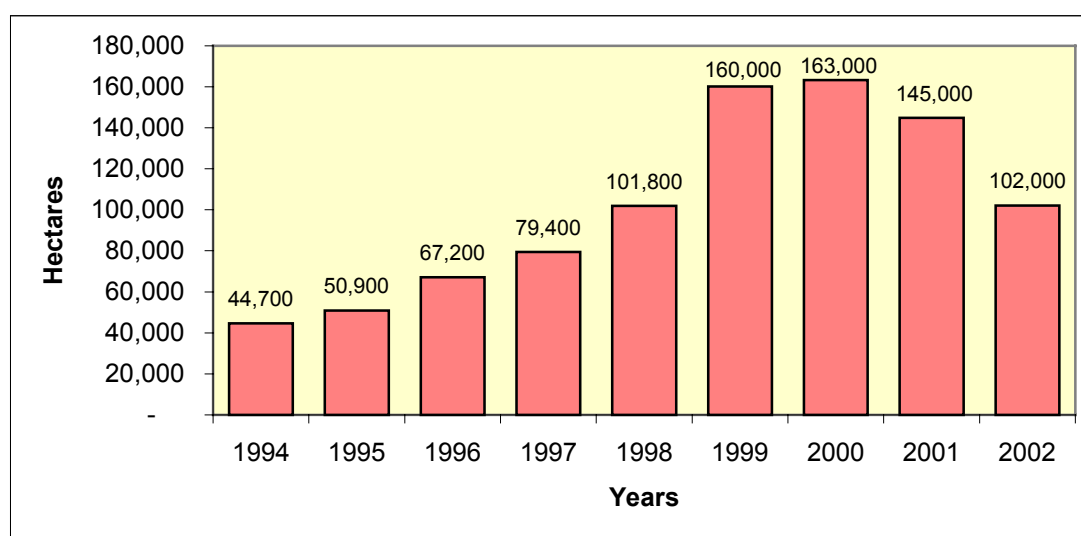


In 2002, the DIRAN carried out a large-scale eradication campaign. The DIRAN reported the spraying of 126,933 hectares of coca bush and 3,371 hectares of opium poppy in 2002. Compared with 2001, this represents increases of 45% and 67%, respectively.

The geographical information generated by SIMCI on land coverage (forest, water, pastures, licit crops, infrastructure, villages, etc.) also contributes to land use planning activities implemented by both governmental and private institutions, and to alternative development in particular. While the Government's coca eradication programme and related law enforcement measures reduce the area under illicit coca cultivation and drive down the economic incentive to plant new coca fields, sustaining the reduction in coca cultivation requires that farmers have socio-economic alternatives. UNODC also actively supports alternative development programmes in the coca growing areas of Colombia which aim at achieving this goal by complementing the eradication efforts of the Government.

Figure 1: Cultivation of coca bush in hectares, Colombia, 1994 - 2002



Remark: Estimates for 1999 and subsequent years come from the national monitoring system established by the Colombian government with the support of UNODC. Due to the change of methodology, figures for 1999 and after cannot be directly compared with data from previous years (based on US government surveys).