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Illicit crop cultivation occurs in some of the most conflictive and unstable countries in the world. In these countries, illicit crop cultivation can usually contribute significantly to the local and national illicit economy. In general, illicit crop cultivation has been primarily linked to poverty; nevertheless, farmers' motivations are diverse and they are not always among the poorest. Under these circumstances, it is of foremost importance to analyze and identify which conditions could be influencing resilience to illicit crop cultivation. UNODC annually collects quantifiable and systematic field information, and reports on the multi-functional role that illicit crop cultivation plays in the local livelihoods strategies of farmers, including resilience related indicators, such as adaptive capacity and safety nets. In addition, UNODC is conducting quantitative socio-economic impact assessments of development projects using a comprehensive set of multi-dimensional poverty and resilience indicators, coupled with remote sensing analysis of licit and illicit crop areas. This type of innovative and technology based analysis is expected to provide valuable evidence of what type of development intervention works, and why. The gradual inclusion of resilience as a criterion for drug-control policies is shifting the paradigm from assuming that socio-economic systems are stable and can be controlled, to supporting these systems to cope with, adapt to, and shape change. In this sense, the value of monitoring should be understood as part of a broader scientific enterprise of learning, in which evidence is built over time and across different contexts, forming the basis for better policymaking and program design.

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