

SUMMARY

This programme will realise substantial productivity gains for forestry through developing innovative harvesting technologies on steep country. Direct economic benefits of \$100 million per year by 2025 are envisaged, as well as enhanced worker safety.

This report is for the last Quarter of the 2012/13 year and sees the completion of many of the project milestones for the year. The main achievements in this Programme during the period 1 April – 30 June 2013 have been: completion of the commercial model of the Cutover Camera System for improved hauler vision (Task 2.1); the first unit of the Alpine Grapple system for improved grapple carriage control has been implemented by a harvesting company (Task 2.2); and an evaluation of the design of the innovative Hill Country Harvester mobility platform by an independent consultant engineer (Task 2.3).

The key focus on health and safety in the forest industry, and in particular fatalities in harvesting operations, is resulting in an increased interest in this development programme. Mechanisation to improve harvesting worker safety in tree falling, breaking out, and extraction is now the stated intention of a number of forestry companies as a means of removing workers from hazardous areas. The outputs from this programme, and other innovations that have begun to occur as a result of this programme, are providing forest owners and contractors with the solutions to improve operational safety.