

QUARTERLY PROGRESS SUMMARY: April – June 2015

STEEPLAND HARVESTING PROGRAMME

This programme outlines a pathway for the New Zealand forest industry to develop innovative harvesting technologies for steep country forests that will reduce costs and make harvesting jobs safer for workers.

Summary of progress during this quarter

The main achievements in this programme during the period 1 April to 30 June 2015 have been:

- the completion of the development of the 2015/16 Annual Plan;
- installation and commissioning of the teleoperation control system (incorporating video and audio feedback) into the John Deere feller buncher; and
- completion of the design of the beta prototype mobile tail hold carriage for the Innovative Yarding System project

Key highlights and achievements

The development of a new generation of harvesting technologies, from the Steep Land Harvesting programme, supported by innovative engineering firms and contractors throughout New Zealand, has been recognised by the industry as contributing to increased levels of mechanisation as evidenced by the large investment over the last 2 years in new winch-assisted feller buncher systems that replace manual workers with chainsaws on steep slopes.

This programme is realising substantial productivity gains for the forest industry through developing innovative steep country harvesting technologies. Direct economic benefits of over \$100 million by 2020 are envisaged, as well as enhanced worker safety. Mechanised felling, either controlled in-cab or tele-operated, coupled with other innovations, such as the HarvestNav on-board GPS-based navigation system, and innovative grapple carriages supported by video camera-based vision systems for improved log extraction are providing forest owners and contractors with solutions to improve productivity and reduce the exposure of workers to hazards on steep terrain.

Investment

<i>Investment period</i>	<i>Industry contribution</i>	<i>MPI contribution</i>	<i>Total investment</i>
<i>During this Quarter</i>	\$0.127m	\$0.127m	\$0.255
<i>Programme To Date</i>	\$2.503m	\$2.503m	\$5.006m