



Theme Leader: Keith Raymond



HARVESTING THEME UPDATE

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The FFR Harvesting theme has been running now for three months and we recently had the first quarterly review of the research programme.

Keith Raymond has taken up the role of Theme Leader and with his background in harvesting research and operations management, Keith is well placed to provide leadership to this theme. The Scion Programme Leader for this theme, Hamish Marshall, announced his resignation in February to take up a role with Interpine Forestry in Rotorua. In the interim Scion have contracted Hamish to ensure continuity with the research programme whilst they recruit for a replacement. Ref: Russell Dale

One exciting activity coming up is the Industry Summit being organised by Resin and Innovatek in July: *Wood supply chain competitiveness – reviving forestry's financial performance*. FFR has agreed to provide some sponsorship for this conference to assist in getting Jan Fryk from Skogforsk in Sweden and John Mann from FERIC in Canada over to New Zealand. As part of this, Resin will assist FFR in inviting both Jan Fryk, John Mann, and other overseas experts present to participate in developing an FFR harvesting research strategy. This is planned for Thursday 24th and Friday 25th July, immediately following the conclusion of the Industry Summit. Further details on this will follow shortly but please keep this time free.

The following is a summary of progress with the work programme that was agreed late last year.

Productivity Monitoring/Data Collection Tool

An initial report reviewing data collection tools for monitoring harvesting productivity has been completed. This year a review of the MultiDAT electronic data logger for use in harvesting productivity research is planned. FFR members Forme Group have agreed to make a MultiDAT available to FFR to evaluate research applications and future developments of the tool.

Human Factors Research

A review of previous human factors and ergonomics research has been undertaken, including an assessment of the success of implementation of this research. The purpose of the project is to determine

the uptake of the research to date, and whether it has made a difference.

The first stage of the project, a review of human factors research initiatives from New Zealand and overseas, is almost complete and after review will be circulated to members. Work is now underway to determine the reasons for success of some initiatives and why other initiatives have failed. Useful outcomes will also include identifying the successful methods used to get information out to industry members as a means of guiding successful technology transfer in the future.

Technology Watch – Scanning of LIRO Reports

Scanning of all of the previous LIRO reports has been completed and these are now in an indexed and searchable form. As soon as the full FFR website (under development) is completed, these reports will be made available via the website. As an interim measure the reports are being distributed on CD to members of the Harvesting theme.

Industry Benchmarking Study

Late last year, Resin announced plans to develop a comprehensive supply chain cost benchmarking process. FFR endeavoured to work in with this wider study, focussing on harvesting cost benchmarks across New Zealand. Following theme member feedback and despite limited industry support to date for the Resin survey, we have decided to still go ahead with a benchmarking study across FFR members.

The purpose of the benchmarking is to provide a baseline for the New Zealand industry. From this FFR members can judge whether their underlying productivity has improved or declined over time as a result of research and other initiatives being taken to improve productivity across the harvesting sector.

A design specification for this study has been developed and proposals will be invited from a small number of organisations to develop the information interface and undertake the study.

Keith Raymond
Theme Leader