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HARVESTING THEME UPDATE

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Harvesting Theme Members Meeting

The FFR Harvesting Theme is planning its inaugural Members Meeting for 24-25 March 2009 in Rotorua.

This Meeting is aimed at updating all members on progress with the current research programme, and presenting the draft programme for 2009/10.

Following up on the successful Harvesting Strategy Workshop in July last year where ideas arising from the Industry Strategic Summit were captured, a presentation will be given on this Harvesting Research Strategy.

The draft 2009/10 research work programme will be presented and members will have the opportunity to discuss and propose Research Projects to add to the Programme.

On Day 2, a field trip, hosted by PF Olsen Ltd, will focus on innovative harvesting operations. The meeting is open to all FFR Harvesting Theme members and it is hoped that all member organisations will have representatives present. This is your opportunity to guide the future research programme so it is aligned to industry needs.

Current Research Work Programme Update

The FFR Harvesting Theme has completed its first full year of research work. Scion are investing \$150,000 of capability development funding in harvesting research in 2008/09 and these projects will be added to the programme of work.

The Technical Steering Team recently reviewed progress for Q2 2008/09. The following summarises the highlights of this review.

Real Time Productivity Data Collection

Trials with the MultiDAT electronic data logger have been completed and a full Report will be available soon to members. Results showed that the MultiDAT is a useful tool for monitoring machine utilisation. FFR acknowledges the assistance of Forme Consulting Group Ltd in making the MultiDAT available for FFR harvesting productivity research.

Other work involving the conversion of hauler air controls to Danfoss hydraulic controllers, and the development by Scion of a Production Display Unit for entry/display of payload has highlighted the potential for data collection in conjunction with the MultiDAT.

A report on the trial to predict extraction machine payload by measuring the degree of grapple openness using an accelerometer is also in preparation. Further work will focus on the information available from on-board monitoring systems, the use of tension monitors, and methods for recording yarding distance on cable systems.

Uptake of Human Factors Research

The purpose of this project is to determine the uptake of previous human factors and ergonomics research, and decide whether it has made a difference in the industry. The first stage of the project reviewed past human factors research initiatives from New Zealand.

Sophie Hide from COHFE has been busy on the second stage of the project, interviewing industry members to assess their perceptions of the impact of implementation of previous human factors research, and to determine the reasons for the success or otherwise of past initiatives.

This work is scheduled for completion mid-year.



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Logging Technology Watch

The FFR website at <http://www.ffr.co.nz> is up and running and access passwords are in the process of being distributed to members.

This will enable members of the Harvesting Theme to access all the LIRO brief reports, FFR Harvesting Technical Notes, Technology Watch and Theme Updates.

The first two regional Technical Meetings to promote the work in this Theme to harvesting contractors and forest company staff have been held in Gisborne and Mosgiel. More Technical Meetings are scheduled during the year.

A draft revised edition of the Business Management for Logging Handbook has been written. Acknowledgements are due to FICA and the Blackburne Group for the preparation of this Handbook. This includes an updated costing template which will be loaded onto the FFR website.

Future Felling

A baseline literature review of the potential for felling and bunching on steep terrain has been completed. This has identified that there has been very little investment worldwide into research of harvesting on difficult terrain over the last 10 years.

Further work involves analysis of harvest plans and profiles to determine the potential for bunching based on terrain, piece size and cable hauler payload over a sample of New Zealand cable logging conditions.

Forest Industry Benchmarking

This project is aimed at developing a harvesting productivity benchmarking system for the New Zealand forest industry to measure its performance against

The purpose of the benchmarking system is to provide a web-based system for FFR members to input harvesting production data on a confidential basis and generate baseline comparisons of various productivity and cost factors.

The system is being developed by the University of Canterbury School of Forestry and the project is headed up by Dr Rien Visser, Director of Studies in Forest Engineering.

A Benchmark Development Group, comprising the members of the Technical Steering Team (see below) has been guiding the development team on the format of the database, input parameters and calculated benchmarks. FFR acknowledges the assistance of this group in ongoing development of this project:

- Dan Fraser (Hikurangi Forest Farms Ltd)
- Spencer Hill (PF Olsen Limited)
- Matt Wakelin (Ernslaw One Ltd)
- Neil Weber (Pan Pac Forest Products)
- Barry Wells (Blakely Pacific Limited)

