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HARVESTING THEME UPDATE

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Summary

This update highlights the Innovative Yarding System workshops being run at different locations around the country over the next month. If you are interested in participating in these workshops please click on the link below for more information and registration details. This update also summarises progress in other projects in the 2012/13 PGP "Innovative Harvesting Solutions" programme.

INNOVATIVE YARDING SYSTEM WORKSHOPS

As part of the 2012/13 Research Plan a series of workshops is being held across the country to generate ideas from FFR members and the wider industry for an innovative yarding system.

This is a major project of the PGP Harvesting Programme and over the next three years over \$1.8M of programme funding is allocated to this project. The objective is to develop an alternative new extraction system that has the potential to provide at least 30% productivity improvement over current systems.

The total budget for Intermediate Outcome 2: Increased Productivity of Cable Extraction for 2012/13 is \$412,860, of which \$261,560 is allocated to this Innovative Yarding System project.

The Harvesting Technical Steering Team has already approved the commencement of the first project in this Innovative Yarding System programme. This involves a proposal to develop a new mobility platform for cable yarding – The Hill Country Harvester.

This machine will have a low centre of gravity and be capable of walking down the steepest slopes. It is designed to be a platform for either a range of attachments, such as either a boom and grapple to bunch trees or for a yarder tower for intermediate support or a set of winches for short range lateral cable hauling.

The first of the workshops for further ideas generation was held in Rotorua on Wed 10th October. Ten industry members attended and twenty-three ideas were generated, discussed and prioritised.

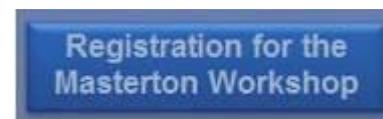
Further workshops are planned for:

Dunedin - 24th October 2012



<http://www.ffr.co.nz/innovative-yarding-system-workshop-dunedin>

Masterton - 31st October 2012



<http://www.ffr.co.nz/innovative-yarding-system-workshop-masterton>

Gisborne - 7th November 2012



<http://www.ffr.co.nz/innovative-yarding-system-workshop-gisborne>

Make sure you register for the workshop closest you if you want to be part of this exciting new project.



HARVESTING THEME UPDATE

RESEARCH PROGRESS: Q1 2012/13

FFR Harvesting Theme has now completed the first quarter of the 2012/13 Programme. Highlights for this Quarter include:

Field Demo of ClimbMAX Steep Slope Harvester

- The PGP investment panel, senior MPI staff and FFR Board members visited Nelson on Wed 19th September to view the ClimbMAX steep slope harvester in action. The visit was hosted by Nigel Kelly of Kelly Logging Limited and Kerry Hill of Trinder Engineers. The visitors were able to see the ClimbMAX felling and bunching trees on slopes in excess of 30 degrees in Rai Forest. The group then travelled to Richmond to see the second ClimbMax (commercial model) up close as construction was being completed. This machine is due for delivery to a North Island contractor.



Figure 1: PGP Investment Panel (Bill Falconer and Colin McKenzie) views the ClimbMax steep slope harvester up close with Kerry Hill and Nigel Kelly at the field demo.

- The PGP investment panel was excited that this project is starting to deliver value to the stakeholders and feedback has been positive about the tangible outputs from this project so early in the six-year life of the PGP Harvesting programme.
- The report on the Concept Design and Feasibility of the use of Teleoperation in Steep Slope Harvesting was published

(Report H008). A literature review of the State of the Art in Teleoperation (HTN04-09) and a report describing the design of the lab-based development platform for teleoperation has also been published (HTN04-11) during the quarter.

Alpine Grapple Commissioning Trials

- The Alpine grapple developed in South Africa by Alpine Logging has been trialled in a number of hauler operations in the Bay of Plenty. A field demonstration is planned for Thursday 25th October in a forest in the Bay of Plenty. Further details will be circulated to FFR members shortly.



Figure 2: Alpine hydraulic grapple control with Johnson rope grapple in field trials in the Bay of Plenty.

- A report on the Prototype Cutover Camera System, comprising a network surveillance camera located on the hauler cutover has been completed.
- A Technical Note on the Trial of the Low-cost Grapple Restraint System in a cable logging operation has been completed (HTN04-10).
- A Technical Note (HTN04-08) on the Benchmarking Costs and Productivity database has been completed and is in final editing stage.