Forest Growers Research Ltd and FPInnovations renew a Memorandum of Understanding for steep slope harvesting

Rotorua – September 25, 2018 – Forest Growers Research Ltd (FGR) and FPInnovations of Canada are pleased to announce they have renewed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to widen the scope of their information exchange in the area of steep slope harvesting, and to facilitate the international exchange of their combined research.

FGR and FPInnovations are mutually involved in development of forest technology and will share expertise in cooperative research, development, and application activities for specific projects agreed by both groups. The MOU will also allow both parties to share in the transfer of information and technology through cooperative demonstration projects and symposia; encourage the exchange of research personnel, and prepare joint reports where possible.

Common research areas for information exchange between FGR and FPInnovations include the environmental sustainability of harvesting operations; which includes steep slope machine stability, steep slope road and landing construction, and soil disturbance in steep slope harvesting. Other joint topics of interest are the further development of line tension and cable integrity, remote control and teleoperation of forest machinery, vision systems such as machine vision, and reducing energy intensity and the carbon footprint of forest operations. The new MOU is in effect through to June, 2022.

Russell Dale, Chief Executive of Forest Growers Research Ltd said "The collaboration with FPInnovations in Canada has added value to the Steepland Harvesting PGP programme in terms of visits from Canadian harvesting researchers, presentations at conferences, and shared research reports over the last few years. We look forward to building on this collaboration when we commence our new programme on forestry automation and robotics."

Alan Potter, Vice-President, Science and Innovation, FPInnovations agreed "We are very pleased to have renewed this agreement with FGR in New Zealand. During the previous MOU, the conversations and information shared between the FPInnovations and New Zealand teams were extremely valuable to accelerate dissemination of research findings and the introduction of new technologies such as winch-assist systems for steep slopes in B.C."

Associated Links
- FPInnovations: https://fpinnovations.ca/Pages/index.aspx
- Forest Growers Research: https://fgr.nz/

About Forest Growers Research
FGR is part of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association (FOA) and co-ordinates industry input and funding of research programmes relevant to the forest growing sector. FGR manages the research funded by both the Forest Growers Levy Trust, a levy on forest growers' harvested timber, and also other research programmes funded by other sources. This includes two major government and industry funded partnerships: the Steepland Harvesting PGP programme, and the Specialty Wood Products partnership. For more information about Forest Growers Research, visit: https://fgr.nz/

About FPInnovations
FPInnovations is a not-for-profit world leader that specializes in the creation of scientific solutions in support of the Canadian forest sector's global competitiveness and responds to the priority needs of its industry members and government partners. It is ideally positioned to perform research, innovate, and deliver state-of-the-art solutions for every area of the sector's value chain, from forest operations to consumer and industrial products. FPInnovations' staff numbers more than 525. Its R&D laboratories are located in Québec City, Montréal, and Vancouver, and it has technology transfer offices across Canada. For more information about FPInnovations, visit www.fpinnovations.ca.

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