

PGP, Future Forest Research, Steepland Harvesting Programme Quarterly Summary Report for the Quarter ended June 2011

During this quarter, the Steepland Harvesting programme made good progress on developing commercialisation plans for a number of forest harvesting mechanisms.

Of particular note is the approval of the commercialisation plan for steep slope harvesting machines that has the potential to improve harvesting efficiency by at least 15 percent and therefore increased productivity by more than 15 percent than current practice.

Other projects included a technical and economic feasibility study to demonstrate the safety and improved productivity of a tele-operated tree felling machine.

An economic feasibility analysis of camera technology on cable logging resulted in positive results with savings of over \$1.00 per tonne on the cable logging rate.

An investigation into the feasibility of multi-function haulers also commenced.

Research will focus on increased mechanisation of harvesting on steep land in particular, to increase productivity, reduce costs, improve safety and potentially provide opportunities for New Zealand manufacturers.