

STEEPLAND HARVESTING PGP PROGRAMME

Summary Report for Third Quarter 2014-15

This programme will realise substantial productivity gains for forestry through developing innovative harvesting technologies on steep country. Direct economic benefits of over \$100 million by 2020 are envisaged, as well as enhanced worker safety.

The main achievements in this programme during the period 1 January to 31 March 2015 have been: the extension to the forest industry of the Koller remote controlled yarder by way of field demonstration and trial in February, 2015; further progress in the development of the teleoperation control system (incorporating video and audio feedback from the John Deere feller buncher); and in the Innovative Yarding System project, a demonstration of the alpha prototype mobile tail hold carriage (1/8-scale model) to the Technical Steering Team in February.

The development of a new generation of harvesting technologies, from the Steep Land Harvesting programme, supported by innovative engineering firms and contractors throughout New Zealand, is being recognised by the industry as contributing to a large investment over the last 18 months in new feller bunchers that replace manual workers with chainsaws on steep slopes. These machines are also supported by other innovations, such as on-board GPS-based navigation and camera-assisted systems for log extraction. This programme will continue to provide forest owners and contractors with solutions to improve productivity and reduce the exposure of workers to hazards on steep terrain