

Value added by optimal wood raw material allocation & processing (VARMA)

Start: 2014

Duration: 36 months

Total budget: € 1,507,000

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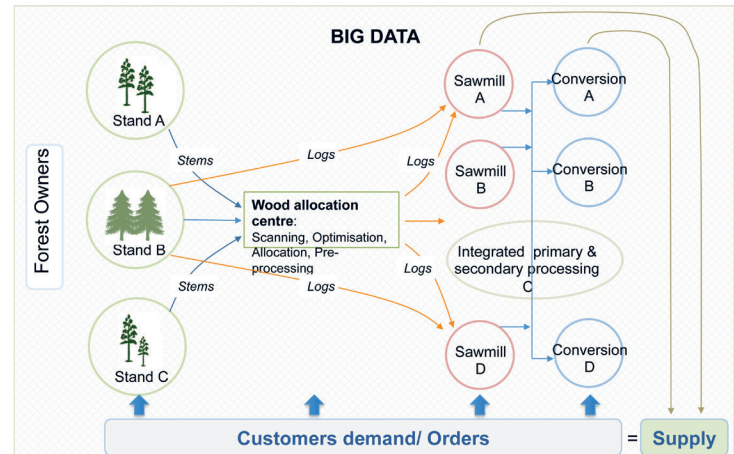
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Abstract:

European woodworking industry must introduce radically novel customer-oriented business models and services in order to enhance competitive advantage. Especially in sawmilling business lot of efforts has been focused on minimizing costs. Scots pine growing in the North produce high quality timber, but with current processes, the raw material value potential cannot be fully utilized. Modern scanning technology integrated with the planning tools can improve value recovery of timber products markedly. The VARMA-project develops smart and customer driven Wood allocation centre – concepts in Europe. At the centre,

the stems are optimally cut-to-length based on more advanced information about wood raw material quality characteristics and customer orders. Low value parts can be allocated directly to bioenergy or other use, when unnecessary processing and transportation can be reduced. The fundamental idea is to deliver the right product to the right customer in a timely manner with the highest possible value added. The project will explore the benefits of the WAC and demonstrate the concepts in practice.

The VARMA-project introduces entirely new way of thinking to European woodworking industry. Several

positive impacts can be expected: 1) optimized raw material utilization ratio, 2) increased value yield in production, 3) cost reduction (i.e. expensive investments, such as tracking, x-ray, optimisation and other it-systems, can be shared), 4) improved customer-orientation and reduced delivery times, 5) emergence of co-operating network, 6) increased flexibility in value chains and 7) several additional service opportunities. Also, potential for improved value generation to forest owners should be noted.