**INFORMATION ON THE COMPLETED PROJECT
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

Digital Timberlands 2020

Every managed forest in Canada begins with a seed. From it, a tree grows and is sometimes cut down. The wood from the tree then becomes products such as lumber, fuel or paper. The process by which a tree begins as a seed and ends as a product is known as the forest value chain. Processing a tree from seed to product involves a host of different people, including tree planters, forest managers and mill workers. Each has their own important role in the value chain.

PROJECT TITLE
Digital Timberlands 2020: Digitalizing the upstream portion of the forest products value chain in New Brunswick

ORGANIZATION
Northern Hardwoods Research Institute (NHRI)

CONTACT
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START DATE
April 1, 2020

END DATE
March 31, 2023

COLLABORATORS
University of Sherbrooke (Québec)
University Laval (Québec)

The Northern Hardwoods Research Institute (NHRI) has launched a multi-year project aiming to empower companies and organizations in the New Brunswick forest sector to digitally streamline the forest value chain. The institute will be investigating how the different players in the value chain can best gather and send information digitally. Making sure information and resources flow from each step of the value chain to the next is crucial to ensuring the efficiency of the entire process.

The NHRI's project will focus specifically on digitally streamlining the upstream portion of the forest value chain: the part of the process prior to when wood is turned into products. The NHRI's project will leverage the benefits of cutting-edge technology, such as artificial intelligence, to fix information gaps and conduct its research.

The NHRI is establishing several study sites in northwestern New Brunswick to conduct its research. The institute will use these sites to carry out a range of studies testing new methods to digitize the value chain, such as examining how harvester on-board-computer data can be better collected when trees are cut.

The NHRI will create a range of resources for forest industry members to share information. For example, it will establish a consortium of stakeholders, including private product firms, forest management organizations, I.T. firms, governments and academics that will focus on digitizing the value chain. Among other resources, the NHRI will create a knowledge hub in New Brunswick to develop networking opportunities for stakeholders.

The Northern Hardwoods Research Institute aims to use this project not only to digitize the forest value chain, but also to stimulate innovation and competition in New Brunswick's forest sector.

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