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1 Operational short rotation woody crop plantations: manual or mechanised harvesting?

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10

11 Abstract

12 Harvesting is the most expensive, but the least investigated process in the cultivation of short rotation
13 woody crops (SRWC). To get a better idea of the harvesting process (in terms of its performance,
14 productivity, cost, soil compaction, cutting height and quality as well as biomass losses), we closely
15 monitored the second harvest of a SRWC culture in Flanders (Belgium). We compared our results to the
16 harvests of other, small European parcels. The trees at our site were harvested with both a manual and a
17 mechanised (Stemster harvester) cut-and-store system, while the cut-and-chip system was analysed
18 from an extensive literature survey. The production cost (to the edge of the field) at our site reached 426
19 (manual) and 94 (mechanised) € t⁻¹, while the average values found in the literature are respectively 104
20 and 78 € t⁻¹, versus 17 € t⁻¹ for the cut-and-chip harvesting system. The productivity at our site reached
21 14 (manual) and 22 (mechanised) oven-dry tonnes per scheduled machine hour, while the average
22 values found in the literature are respectively 15 and 23 t h⁻¹. Based on the good performance (ha h⁻¹)
23 and productivity (t h⁻¹) of the cut-and-chip system as well as its lower costs, this harvesting system is
24 recommended for operational SRWC.

25

26 Keywords

27 POPFULL, wood chips, poplar, harvesting efficiency, motor-manual harvesting.

28

29 1. Introduction

30 In the light of the EU's target to obtain a 20% overall share of energy from sustainable sources [1],
31 biomass is considered being one of the most interesting options to generate renewable energy [2]. Short
32 rotation woody crops (SRWC) are very suitable for the efficient production of biomass [3, 4]. The fast
33 growth, the high yield and the availability of disease resistant genotypes make poplars (*Populus* spp.) and
34 willows (*Salix* spp.) ideal species for SRWC [5-8]. Within the SRWC cultivation method, trees are
35 harvested every 2-5 years over a total period of 20-30 years [9].

36 Extensive research has already been performed on various aspects of SRWC as: the selection of suitable
37 species and genotypes [10, 11]; the influence of regular coppicing [10, 12]; the duration and frequency of
38 rotation cycles [5, 13]; management issues related to planting, weeding [14], pesticide application,
39 irrigation [15, 16]; etc. Although detailed information about the harvesting procedure of SRWC is crucial,
40 it is still not possible for a farmer to estimate the expected harvesting costs in advance. Especially the
41 costs and the effectiveness of different harvesting systems and techniques need to be more thoroughly
42 investigated as the harvesting operation is one of the most expensive processes along the entire
43 production chain [17, 18]. The lack of knowledge on harvesting [19] and the uncertainties regarding the
44 expected costs and profits [20, 21] are the main reasons why farmers hesitate to establish SRWC [9, 22].

45 The main aim of this study was to provide harvesting costs, productivity figures and performance
46 indicators (incl. soil compaction, cutting height and quality as well as biomass losses) for a fully
47 mechanised and a motor-manual harvest of an operational SRWC plantation. To evaluate our results and
48 to make recommendations to farmers, a literature review providing information about productivities,
49 costs and/or performance indicators of different harvesting systems was also carried out.

50

51 *State of the art*

52 In general, two different harvesting systems are used for SRWC: the cut-and-store and the cut-and-chip
53 system. The plantations that were reviewed from the literature all appeared to be small scale; the
54 largest SRWC plantations taken into account were 2.46 ha [23] and 21.89 ha [24], respectively, for
55 manual and mechanised harvesting operations.

56

57 {Insert Figure 1 here}

58

59 The cut-and-store harvesting system is a two-step operation: (i) harvesting the entire shoot, and (ii)
60 hauling and chipping the cut stems to the edge of the field [25, 26]. The harvesting can be done manually
61 or mechanised. Respectively 11 (manual) and five (mechanised) field studies from Germany were
62 retrieved from the literature (Appendix 1, summarised in Table 1). Manual harvesting of SRWC has been
63 analysed since many years [31, 32]. It is very labour intensive and is only of interest if a mechanised
64 system is not available or not possible (e.g. due to the small dimensions of the field, weather and/or soil
65 conditions, etc.). Usually a chainsaw is used, although some studies report a bow or brush saw [32]. The
66 harvesting is generally carried out by a team of two labour forces: one person cuts the trees while the
67 other pushes them into the desired direction or pre-piles the cut trees to facilitate the subsequent
68 (mechanised) forwarding process [27]. Mechanised harvesting operations are done by using a specialised
69 harvesting head attached to an agricultural vehicle (e.g. the Stemster harvester [33]). Manual and
70 mechanised harvesting reach average productivities of $1.23 (\pm 0.60) \text{ t h}^{-1}$ (manual) and $9.50 (\pm 1.47) \text{ t h}^{-1}$
71 (mechanised). The harvesting costs vary from $22.65 (\pm 14.20) \text{ € t}^{-1}$ (manual) to $18.54 (\pm 4.16) \text{ € t}^{-1}$
72 (mechanised) (Table 1). Only metric oven-dry tonnes are used throughout this manuscript, unless
73 otherwise stated.

74 Hauling is a necessary working step after harvesting because typically the trees are stored for a
75 prolonged period which might inhibit the resprouting of the stumps when left in the field. Usually the

76 stems are transported over small distances (100-200 m) and concentrated on the headlands of the fields
77 to wind-dry in bulk. In the literature, six field studies from Germany and two from Italy were retrieved;
78 they processed on average $5.34 (\pm 3.06) \text{ t h}^{-1}$ at $33.34 (\pm 30.65) \text{ € t}^{-1}$ (Appendix 2, summarised in Table 1).
79 Chipping can be postponed either according to the demand or to the required heating value. After
80 several months of drying, a reduced moisture content of ca. 20–25% can be reached, resulting in an
81 increased heating value of ca. 12 GJ t^{-1} [36, 37]. As a result, upgraded chips with higher revenues can be
82 expected and no additional investment, space or time for drying or storage of chips are needed. Twelve
83 studies from Germany and four from Italy were found in the literature, which processed on average 8.19
84 $(\pm 4.44) \text{ t h}^{-1}$ at $26.49 (\pm 7.92) \text{ € t}^{-1}$ (Appendix 2, summarised in Table 1). The overall average
85 productivities of the manual and the mechanised cut-and-store system are respectively 15 and 23 t smh^{-1} ,
86 at 82 and 78 € t^{-1} (Table 1).

87

88 {Insert Table 1 here}

89

90 The cut-and-chip harvesting system is a one-step operation converting standing biomass into woody
91 chips. In this harvesting system stems are usually pushed into a horizontal position before entering the
92 cutting head of the harvester; however, vertical feeding of the cutting head is also possible [17]. The
93 cutting head is a specialised woody biomass cutting head attached to a powerful modified forage
94 harvester, or a mower-feeder cutting head attached to a less powerful standard agricultural tractor [38].
95 The chips are immediately blown into an accompanying tractor-pulled trailer, which drives by the side of
96 the harvesting machine and transports the chips to the storage facility [39, 40]. Produced woody chips
97 have a low lower heating value (ca. $7\text{-}10 \text{ GJ t}^{-1}$), because they have a moisture content of ca. 50-60%.
98 These chips can be dried in an oven or immediately stored at a high moisture content to allow slow
99 natural drying. However, this storage is problematic as it will cause mass losses and fungal emissions,

100 due to increased temperatures and microbial activity [36, 41, 42]. The harvested amount and the
101 farmer's opportunities for drying and storing are other constraints; therefore, immediate use is
102 advisable. In the literature, one study from Germany, four from Italy, one from Sweden and one from
103 Switzerland were found, totalling 25 different field studies [24, 35, 43-45]. On average, these studies
104 yielded $15.93 (\pm 6.78) \text{ t h}^{-1}$, at $17.69 (\pm 5.70) \text{ € t}^{-1}$ (Appendix 1, summarised in Table 1).

105

106 2. Materials and Methods

107 2.1 The POPFULL experimental field site

108 The harvesting trials as well as all measurements were carried out on the operational POPFULL
109 plantation [46], located in Lochristi, Belgium ($51^{\circ}06'44'' \text{ N}$, $3^{\circ}51'02'' \text{ E}$). The soil of the site is sandy and
110 has a poor natural drainage due to a clay-enriched layer below 60 cm [8]. The total area was 18.40 ha
111 from which 14.76 ha were planted in 2010 with 12 different poplar (*Populus*) and 3 different willow
112 (*Salix*) genotypes, all commercially available. The poplar genotypes represented four parentages and
113 included pure species and hybrids of *Populus deltoides*, *P. maximowiczii*, *P. nigra* and *P. trichocarpa* [8].
114 The willow genotypes included one pure species and hybrids of *Salix viminalis*, *S. dasyclados*, *S. alba* and
115 *S. schwerinii*. All genotypes were planted as large monoclonal blocks in a double-row planting scheme:
116 the narrow and the wide rows were respectively 75 and 150 cm wide, and the distance between trees
117 within a row was 110 cm. An overall planting density of 8,000 trees per ha was achieved, totalling
118 118,400 trees. Chemical, mechanical and manual weeding was performed during the first growing
119 season after planting, and herbicides were applied a second time after the first harvest in 2012. Neither
120 irrigation nor fertilization was ever applied since the start-up. More information on the site, its
121 establishment, planting material, soil conditions and management has been previously published [8]. At
122 the time of harvest, there were on average 10.07 ± 5.15 shoots per stump, with an average diameter of
123 $18.59 \pm 14.50 \text{ mm}$ [47].

124 2.2 Harvesting operations at the plantation

125 After trees had been growing for two years in the second rotation (2012-2013), the POPFULL plantation
126 was harvested between 18 and 21 February, 2014. Because of the mild 2013-2014 winter conditions,
127 the soil was not frozen. Therefore only light-weight harvesting machines on caterpillars were able to
128 access the field and were used in order to minimize soil compaction. In studies 1, 2 and 3, we evaluated
129 three cut-and-store harvesting systems at the plantation; each of them harvested different fractions of
130 the entire plantation.

131 Study 1. The largest part of the plantation (13.28 ha) was harvested using the Stemster harvester. This is
132 a side-operated, tractor-pulled harvester that consists of a tractor (JD 6920, Deere & Company, USA) and
133 a harvest-trailer combination (Stemster MKIII, Nordic Biomass a/s, Denmark), both on caterpillars (Table
134 2) [33]. The operator was a professional and experienced driver. Because the Stemster is a side operator,
135 it was facilitated by motor-manual harvesting of a selection of rows, a grabbing crane and a forest cutter
136 (discussed as study 2). The grabbing crane and the forest cutter were both attached to a forwarder (type
137 CAT 314 D, Caterpillar Inc., USA) on caterpillars and operated by experienced drivers.

138 Study 2. An area of 1.36 ha was harvested motor-manually by a team of two workers. The manual
139 harvesting was carried out using chainsaws (364XP, 357XP and T435, Husqvarna AB, Sweden; and MS
140 201T, Andreas Stihl AG & Company, Germany). The chainsaws were exclusively operated by the team
141 leader.

142 Study 3. A very small part (0.12 ha) of the plantation was harvested using the GMT035 (Gierkink Machine
143 Techniek, The Netherlands) harvester, a forest harvesting head used in traditional forestry [48]. This
144 harvesting head was attached to a JD 1110E (Deere & Company, USA) tractor-trailer combination (Table
145 2), operated by an experienced driver. No time study was conducted on this machine due to the small

146 area harvested; the harvesting head was evaluated as not suitable for SRWC harvesting and therefore
147 not used further.

148 {Insert Table 2 here}

149 All hauling operations were carried out using the CAT 314 D machine (as described under study 1). Trees
150 were hauled 100-330 m to the edge of the field, where chipping was carried out using the Komptech
151 510C (Komptech GmbH, Austria) machine in combination with a Fendt 936 tractor (ACCO GmbH,
152 Germany).

153 2.3 Data collection and analysis

154 We carried out time-motion studies [49] during two out of three harvesting operations, i.e. the Stemster
155 and the motor-manual harvesting operation, which were both done by external contractors. We
156 monitored the Stemster harvest (study 1) for 8.6 h and the motor-manual harvest (study 2) for 13.3 h, at
157 different intervals of at least 1 h during their scheduled activity. The duration of the machine assembly
158 before the harvest and the maintenance afterwards were also taken into account. All times were
159 recorded using a stopwatch with an accuracy of 1 s. For the data collection of both time studies (study 1
160 and study 2), the harvesting process was split into the following working steps with clearly recognizable
161 starting and ending points. In study 1: harvesting; transport between rows; offloading of the cut stems
162 (when the carrying capacity of the trailer is reached); personal and operational delays. In study 2:
163 harvesting; pre-piling of cut stems; personal and operational delays.

164 In study 2, both labour men were monitored simultaneously. Because the time periods used for
165 maintenance and delays encountered during the harvesting operation were not representatively
166 monitored, the responsible operators were asked to report the time spent on maintenance (including
167 fuelling) and personal delays (e.g. lunch, phoning, resting). The scheduled machine hours were defined

168 as the time invoiced by both companies and they were distinguished from the productive machine hours
169 by subtracting the unmonitored time elements.

170 For both harvesting operations, the exact harvested area was calculated using ArcGIS 9.3 [50]. The
171 amount of harvested biomass (green tonne) was directly measured in situ with a specific gravity balance
172 by the Stemster (with an error of 5-10% [51]). This value was converted to oven-dry tonnes by weighing
173 two randomly selected stems wet and dried (at 70 °C until constant weight). The stocking biomass ($t\ ha^{-1}$)
174 was obtained by dividing the total amount of oven-dry tonnes by the planted area. We assumed that the
175 stocking biomass was equal at every part of the plantation, and therefore for all three harvest methods.
176 We calculated the amount of hours needed to harvest one hectare ($h\ ha^{-1}$) and the amount of oven-dry
177 tonnes harvested per hour ($t\ h^{-1}$). Furthermore, we calculated the total harvesting costs per hour, per
178 hectare and per oven-dry tonne ($€\ h^{-1}$, $€\ ha^{-1}$, $€\ t^{-1}$). All labour was outsourced at $55\ €\ h^{-1}$ and fuel costs
179 were included at a rate of $1.452\ €\ l^{-1}$ for diesel [52] and $3.26\ €\ l^{-1}$ for two-stroke fuel. The latter was the
180 price we had to pay to the contractor.

181 After the harvest we assessed the impact of the Stemster harvester on soil compaction through
182 measurements of the pressure needed to penetrate the soil with a penetrometer (Eijkelkamp type
183 06.15.SA, The Netherlands). The procedure as described in the instrument manual was followed with a 1
184 cm^2 cone surface area. As an output, a graph was generated, showing a pressure profile with depth. We
185 randomly measured 16 transects before and 20 transects after the harvest with eight sampling points in
186 each transect, equally spread over monoclonal blocks of two genotypes, i.e. Skado (*P. trichocarpa* x *P.*
187 *maximowiczii*) and Koster (*P. deltoides* x *P. nigra*). From the eight sampling points, points 1-3 were
188 located in and averaged as a measure for the narrow row, as was done for points 4-8 for the wide row
189 (Figure 2). The wide rows are used for transit of agricultural vehicles (e.g. the Stemster harvester) and
190 the narrow rows can be seen as control rows. Measurements before vs. after the harvest, and narrow vs.
191 wide rows, were averaged, resulting in four curves: before the harvest in the narrow vs. the wide row

192 and after the harvest in the narrow vs. the wide row. Per cm of depth, the Welch two sample t-test was
193 used to test if differences between these four curves were significant. Analyses were performed using
194 the R software [53].

195 {Insert Figure 2 here}

196 Beside soil compaction we quantified the cutting height as well as the quality of the cut in all three
197 harvesting operations (Stemster, manual and GMT035 harvest). We asked all operators to cut at a height
198 of 7-10 cm above the ground level. After harvesting, we measured the height of a random selection of
199 stumps (between 32 and 100) per genotype and per harvest operation. P-values were generated with a
200 Welch two sample t-test in R [53]. We visually inspected the quality of the cut and the resprouting
201 success of all trees for each harvesting method in order to subjectively assess the quality of the harvesting
202 operations.

203 Biomass losses which occurred during the harvesting operation were quantified by collecting the left
204 biomass on eight randomly selected quadrants of 0.36 m² each [54, 55]. These quadrants were equally
205 distributed over the genotypes Skado and Koster, i.e. four replicates per clone. For each quadrant, we
206 collected all woody biomass left both cut and uncut pieces. When stems crossed the quadrants'
207 boundaries, they were cut as to only collect the parts that were confined within the limits of the
208 quadrants. All samples were oven dried at 70°C until constant weight to estimate their biomass.

209 As a quality parameter of the product, we monitored the effect of wind-drying on wood moisture
210 content. Two freshly cut stems dried till 16 April 2014 (54 days) and two stems dried till 04 June 2014
211 (103 days) were randomly collected from a pile of stems. Stems were collected from the middle of the
212 pile, to avoid border effects. Piles were kept at the edge of the field; they were 3-4 m high, with variable
213 widths. Samples were weighed (accuracy 0.01 g), oven dried (at 70 °C) until constant weight, and
214 weighed again to calculate the moisture content.

215 3. Results

216 In total we harvested 351 t of biomass at the second harvest after the second two-year rotation cycle,
217 equalling an above-ground biomass yield of $11.9 \text{ t ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ during the second rotation. The manual
218 harvesting operation, the Stemster harvester and the GMT035 machine harvester, yielded respectively,
219 32, 316 and 3 t. The detailed time measurements (Figure 3) showed that 76 and 94% of the scheduled
220 machine hours were occupied by productive machine hours with the Stemster and the manual
221 harvesting, respectively. The major reasons for the smaller share of productive machine hours of the
222 Stemster harvester were the time required for the (dis)assembly and the longer maintenance times. The
223 difference in the productive machine hours between the harvesting operations was explained by the
224 time needed – by the Stemster – for turning between the rows, whereas the manual harvesting could
225 continue without (major) interruptions. The share of personal delays was very small in the manual
226 harvesting operation (3%) as the harvested area was relatively small.

227 {Insert Figure 3 here}

228 Our experimental data (Table 3) showed that the manual harvesting operation was performed much
229 slower than the mechanised harvesting ($0.01 \text{ vs. } 0.37 \text{ ha h}^{-1}$), resulting in a lower productivity (0.15 vs.
230 8.84 t h^{-1}). The literature data (Table 1) confirm these findings and further show that the one-step cut-
231 and-chip harvesting is intermediate in terms of performance and productivity as compared to both cut-
232 and-store harvesting systems. Also the costs associated with the harvest operations at our POPFULL
233 plantation were confirmed by findings in the literature: the cost per hour was lower for the manual cut-
234 and-store method as compared to the mechanised cut-and-store method ($440 \text{ vs. } 674 \text{ € h}^{-1}$), and this did
235 not compensate for the higher cost per hectare and tonne ($10142 \text{ vs. } 2232 \text{ € ha}^{-1}$ and $426 \text{ vs. } 94 \text{ € t}^{-1}$).
236 Most costs associated with manual harvesting were due to machine breakdowns caused by sawing close
237 to the ground (whereby a lot of sand and dirt blocked the chain) and by the high number of revolutions

238 of the chainsaw engine (the small diameter of the trees did not provide much resistance). Furthermore,
239 the literature shows that the cut-and-chip harvesting system is the cheapest option per scheduled
240 machine hour ($244 \pm 95 \text{ € h}^{-1}$), per hectare ($500 \pm 205 \text{ € ha}^{-1}$) and per tonne ($18 \pm 6 \text{ € t}^{-1}$).

241 The penetrometer results up to 38 cm depth (Figure 4) showed that there was a significant difference in
242 compaction between the narrow and the wide rows. The narrow rows were significantly less compacted
243 than the wide rows ($p < 0.001$ from 2-38 cm deep), but there was no significant difference before and
244 after the harvest ($p > 0.3$). Therefore, the difference between narrow and wide rows was not caused by
245 the harvest operation of February 2014. Soil compaction data below 38 cm contained too much noise for
246 a clear picture due to irregularities in soil characteristics (*e.g.* stones and water table) and missing data
247 with increasing depth.

248 {Insert Figure 4 here}

249 The average harvest height of the manual harvesting operation, for the Stemster and the GMT035
250 machines was $9.09 (\pm 3.31) \text{ cm}$, $10.11 (\pm 2.73) \text{ cm}$ and $9.24 (\pm 2.91) \text{ cm}$, respectively. This was within the
251 requested upper limit of 10 cm. The difference between the harvest heights of the manual harvesting
252 and the mechanised harvesting system using the Stemster was significant ($p < 0.01$). The difference
253 between the Stemster and the GMT035 harvesting machines was also significant ($p < 0.01$). All three
254 harvesting methods were visually examined for the quality of their cut. This cutting area had a smooth
255 surface after all three harvesting methods (Figure 5), which was, however, degraded by the forwarder
256 accompanying the GMT035 harvester. The resprouts of the area harvested by the GMT035 could not be
257 inspected as this part of the plantation was converted into maize cultivation immediately after the
258 harvesting. The timing of the resprouting was subjectively and visually monitored every week on the
259 areas harvested manually and with the Stemster. Results were comparable; all stumps started vigorously
260 producing resprouts around May 2014. The total stocking biomass was 24.90 t ha^{-1} , from which 4% (*i.e.*

261 1.12 t ha⁻¹) were lost during the harvesting operations. The moisture content of the freshly cut stems was
262 on average 56%, which dropped to 53% after 54 days of natural wind-drying, and further dropped to 42%
263 after 103 days of natural wind-drying of the piles of harvested stems.

264 {Insert Figure 5 here}

265 4. Discussion

266 When interpreting results retrieved from the literature, it should be taken into account that about one
267 third of all studies examined the first harvesting operation only, i.e. before plantations developed a real
268 “coppice culture”. Studying the differences in harvest efficiency between a first and a later harvest of
269 SRWC would be an interesting question to address in future studies. A second noteworthy remark is that
270 almost all available literature studies were performed in Germany and Italy. This should be taken into
271 account when (i) comparing costs to Belgium, where labour costs are higher; and (ii) extrapolating costs
272 to other countries with different wages.

273 The low cost per hour of the manual harvesting operation (338 € h⁻¹) compared to the cut-and-store
274 system using the Stemster harvester (640 € h⁻¹) and the cut-and-chip system using a forage harvester
275 (244 € h⁻¹) did not compensate for the difference in performance and productivity of both systems.
276 Therefore, the cut-and-chip system is considered to be the cheapest way of harvesting SRWC, followed
277 by the Stemster harvester and the manual harvesting. When rotation length is increased to 10 years,
278 however, manual harvesting might become economically competitive with fully mechanised harvesting
279 per tonne [56]. The passive reduction of the wood moisture content from 56 to 42% should be able to
280 drop to < 30% and leads to high quality biomass without the need for special techniques, and is
281 therefore an interesting process for small-scale SRWC managers [56].

282 An important issue to be addressed is the influence of the plantation design. At the establishment of our
283 POPFULL site, the harvest was taken into account (headlands were foreseen), but no specific harvesting
284 system was anticipated. Preparing the design for one particular harvester was not feasible because of
285 the operational and technological unpredictability of future harvests [18]. An optimal design, mainly
286 characterized by minimum 12 m wide headlands (currently 8 m wide), would reduce the Stemster
287 harvester's time needed for turning between the different rows [18]. The disadvantage would be a
288 reduced planting area, which is considered to be minimally 300 ha for an economically efficient,
289 mechanised harvest (with forage harvesters) [17]. The loss of 4% of the potential yield caused by the
290 harvesting operation was comparable to the 5.5-8% reported in the literature [18, 55].

291 In conclusion, we propose to use a cut-and-chip system for harvesting areas of 1 ha. This method proves
292 to be the cheapest per hour, per hectare and per tonne, although it is not the fastest performer (ha h^{-1})
293 and does not have the highest productivity (t h^{-1}). When field conditions or logistic arrangements do not
294 allow the use of an integrated cut-and-chip harvester, the mechanised harvesting (with the Stemster) is
295 the second best option. It comes at a high cost per hour, but this is compensated by its much higher
296 performance and productivity, resulting in a lower cost per hectare and lower cost per tonne. The least
297 beneficial harvesting method for small SRWC parcels is the manual harvesting, because it produces chips
298 at a high cost due to its low performance and productivity.

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452 Table 1

453

454

	Performance		Productivity		Cost per hour		Cost per hectare		Cost per tonne	
	(ha h ⁻¹)	stdev	(t h ⁻¹)	stdev	(€ h ⁻¹)	stdev	(€ ha ⁻¹)	stdev	(€ t ⁻¹)	stdev
Manual harvesting	0.05	0.03	1.23	0.60	29	12	715	941	44	50
Mechanised harvesting	1.97	0.53	9.50	1.47	330	0	652	176	19	4
Hauling	0.14	0.09	5.34	2.98	68	11	722	625	33	31
Chipping	0.31	0.09	8.19	3.06	242	87	1787	2913	26	8
Cut-and-store – manual	0.50		14.76		338		3224		104	
Cut-and-store – mechanised	2.42		23.03		640		3162		78	
Cut-and-chip	2.52	2.28	14.91	6.79	223	100	524	197	17	6

455 Table 2

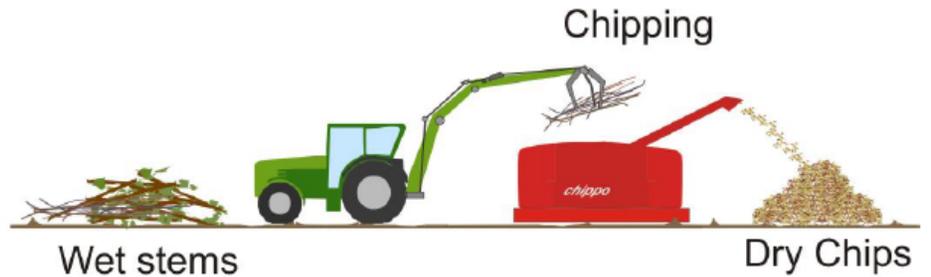
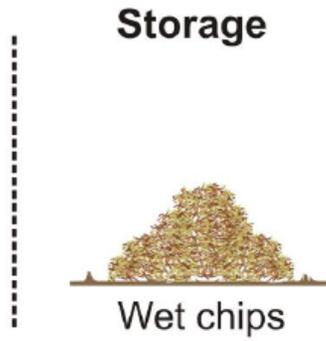
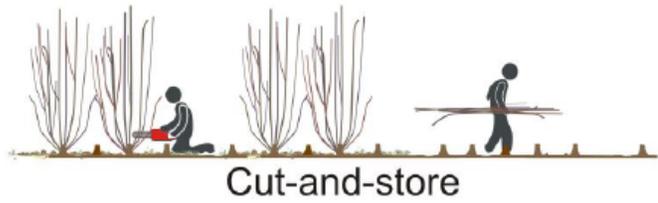
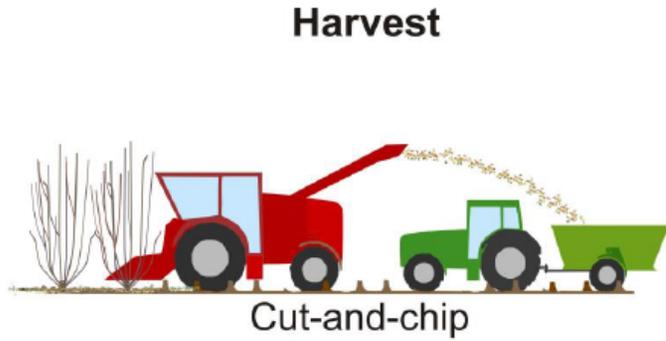
Harvester type	Stemster MKIII	GMT035
Tractor type	John Deere 6920	John Deere 1110E
Manufacturer harvester	Nordic Biomass, DK	Gierkink Machine Techniek BV, NL
Weight harvester (ton)	7	0.150
Weight tractor (ton)	6	17.3
Maximum harvestable diameter (cm)	15	35
Optimal cutting height (cm)	10 - 20	Not specified
Biomass storage capacity (ton)	4.5	12

Table 3

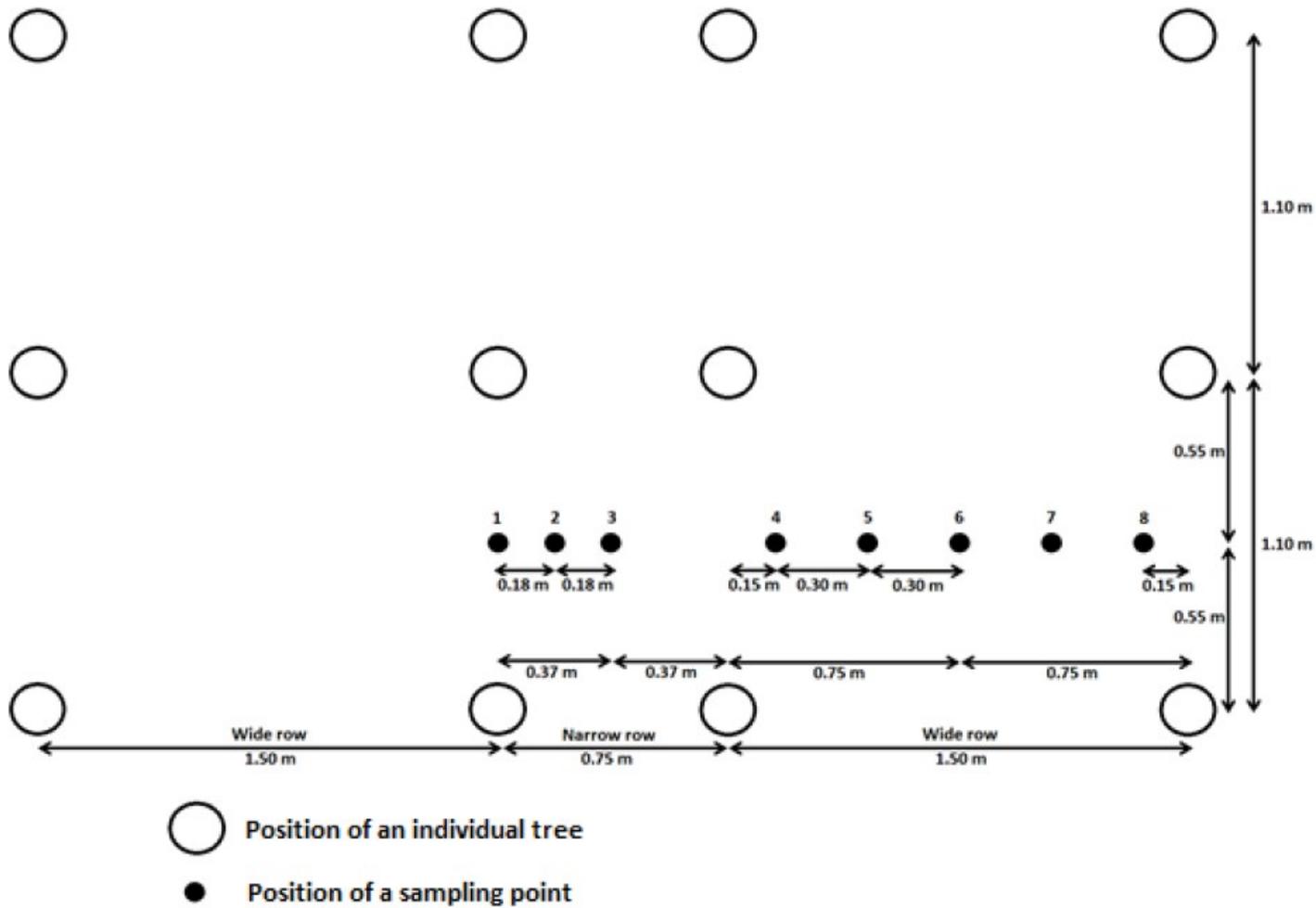
456

	Performance (ha h ⁻¹)	Productivity (t h ⁻¹)	Cost per hour (€ h ⁻¹)	Cost per hectare (€ ha ⁻¹)	Cost per tonne (€ t ⁻¹)
Manual harvesting	0.01	0.15	55	8688	365
Mechanised harvesting	0.37	8.84	289	779	33
Hauling	0.18	4.24	155	870	37
Chipping	0.39	9.37	230	584	25
Cut-and-store – manual	0.58	13.76	440	10142	426
Cut-and-store – mechanised	0.94	22.45	674	2232	94

457



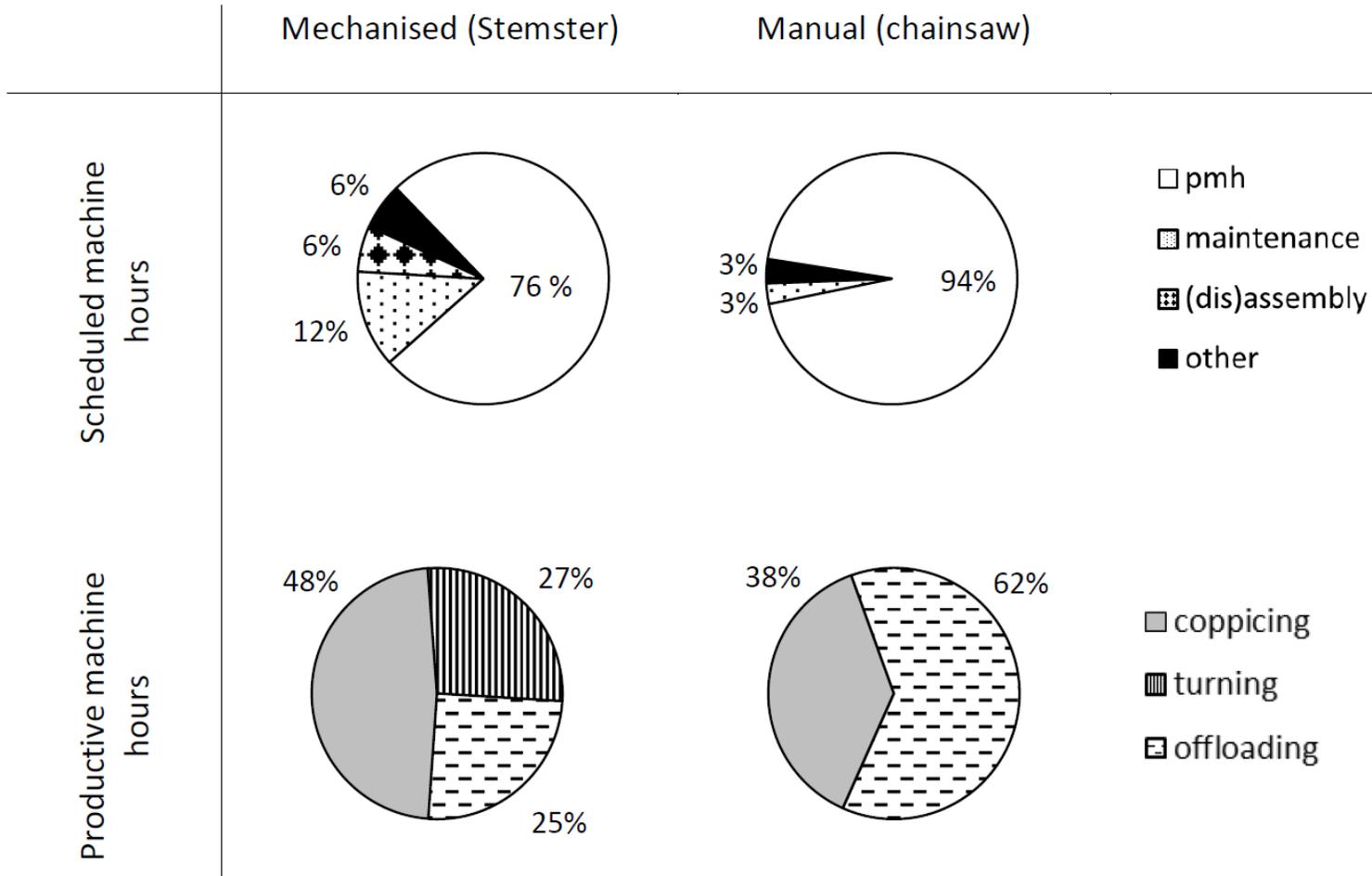
461 Figure 2



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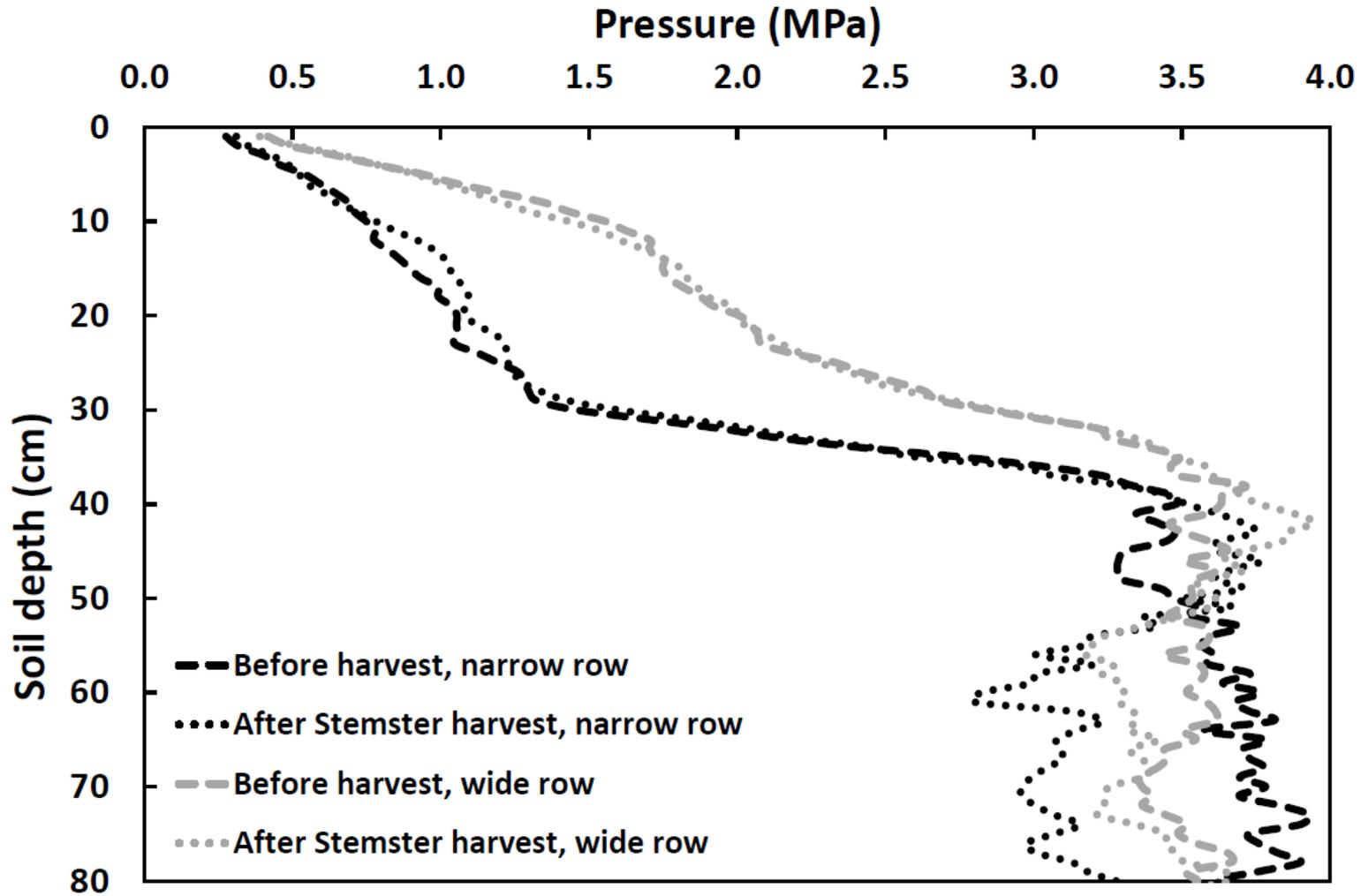
464 Figure 3



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467 Figure 4



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470 Figure 5



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