Cable yarding in France and in Swiss Romandie: status quo and adapted measures within the two different organizations

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**Interreg Project**: cooperation between France and Switzerland:

- Promote cable yarding
- Develop training for young foresters and enterprises
- Find new solutions and organization to boost cable yarding
- Share good practices

⇒ Built a common culture.... In French!

What is the current situation for cable yarding in both countries?

⇒ Survey 2017
The same number of companies.... But

- A large difference between cable yarded volumes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Swiss Romandie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cable crane enterprises</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvested volume by cable yarding (m³/an)</td>
<td>85 000</td>
<td>210 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total harvested volume (m³/an)</td>
<td>36 387 000</td>
<td>1 700 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of total volume harvested with cable</td>
<td>0,23%</td>
<td>12,30%</td>
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- Companies during the last 10 years:
  - France: 12 new and 11 loss
  - Swiss Romandie: no change
The **same material** is used:

- Cable crane on a trailer, 3 to 4 tons capacity

Still some long span skyline in Switzerland

No more in action in France
Radio control chokers

✓ Used by 44% of French companies
✓ Rarely used in Swiss Romandie

Processing at road side:

✓ Used by 56% of French companies
✓ Rarely used in Swiss Romandie

⇒ France:
✓ Fewer men on the field site
✓ More mechanization
Swiss enterprises:
- Harvest more /year
- Some have several cable systems
- Specialized in cable logging
- Manager = manager

French enterprises:
- 1 cable yarding team /company
- Diverse activities
- Managers = excavator operator

Harvested volume for each enterprise, French vs Swiss
✓ Clear cut is forbidden in Switzerland, and represent 30% in France
✓ Dominance trend in both countries:
  o blank cuts (many small clear cuts <0.5ha)
TRAINING

Switzerland:

2 cable logging schools
✓ Maienfeld (German)
✓ Mont sur Lausanne (French)

⇒ maintain and develop skills

France:

One until 2007
No more since

Added to the rapid turn over in the companies: **knowhow concentrated in few operators**

⇒ High risk of skills loss
⇒ 10 trained operators needed, estimated by companies managers
Usually, mountains = skidder’s area, because:

- easier to do (cultural habit) and a lot of skidders
- The cost of road construction are accounted elsewhere
- less expensive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>skidder</th>
<th>Câble crane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase price</td>
<td>150 à 300 k€</td>
<td>100 à 550 k€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working days/year</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers of workers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical cost (€/day)</td>
<td>500 to 600</td>
<td>1 200 to 2 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average price of haulage</td>
<td>10 €/m³</td>
<td>32 €/m³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average price of harvesting (with cutting)</td>
<td>22 €/m³</td>
<td>42 €/m³</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average costs in France**

Wood price at road site (spruce & fire): 45 to 80 €/m³

⇒ A difficult economical balance for the forest owner
⇒ Few timber yard are proposed
Higher living costs in Switzerland

⇒ Higher logging costs (salaries, supplies....)

Governments provide subsidies for:

✓ Material investments
✓ Extension (studies, communication....)
✓ logging

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logging costs (€/m³)</td>
<td>35 to 50</td>
<td>60 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logging Subsidies (€/m³)</td>
<td>6 to 10</td>
<td>25 to 95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Costs and logging subsidies in France and Swiss Romandie

Economical balance is better in Swiss Romandie

⇒ More companies
⇒ More stable in time
RECOMMANDATIONS

1- Increase the number of logging sites

✓ Communication on the benefits of cable yarding (landscape, protection of soil, rock fall, erosion....)

✓ Maintain & increase subsidies

✓ Find another sources of subsidies (non-timber activities: water, tourism....)

✓ Find winter logging site (flat terrain, swamp areas, small mountains) to increase the numbers of working days
RECOMMANDATIONS

2- improve the efficiency of all stakeholders

✓ Massify logging sites with multi forest owners (private and public)
✓ Develop a global silvicultural approach by forest area rather than small properties
✓ Provide a multi year calendar and contract agreement for companies

3- improve the efficiency of logging companies

✓ Propose capacity building activities to reach critical size,
✓ Encourage the diversity of machine size (small on a tractor to big ones on a truck)
✓ Propose training to managers and operators to increase qualification and performance

⇒ A new start for cable yarding in France and Swiss Romandie?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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