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Implementation of SFI Performance Measure 8.4 Survey Results of Member Companies



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Outline

- Background
- Respondents
- Survey Results and Trends
 - a. Procurement
 - b. BMPs and Reforestation
 - c. Verifiable Monitoring and Continual Improvement
- Findings

Performance Measure 8.4

- Program participants shall monitor the effectiveness of efforts to promote *reforestation* and *BMPs*, using public or private sources of information.

PM 8.4 Indicators

1. A verifiable monitoring system to
 - a. Evaluate the results of promoting reforestation across the wood and fiber supply area
 - b. Monitor the use of BMPs by wood producers supplying the Program Participant
 - c. Evaluate the results of promotion and use of BMPs across the wood and fiber supply area

PM 8.4 Indicators

2. Use of information from the verifiable monitoring system to set goals to improve, over time, rates of BMP compliance

Survey Procedures

- Several drafts of the survey were formulated, primarily to use terminology that everyone understood, before final copy was finalized
- Survey e-mailed to SFI contacts (PDF)
- Received surveys from 39 of a possible 155 possible participants – representing individual mills, regions and companies. Survey represented at least 230 mills.

Survey Results

- Procurement Practices

1. Greater than 95% of the fiber acquired is under contract, whether directly from deeded timber or controlled stumpage tracts or with purchase agreements with a contractor.
2. Less than 5% of the fiber acquired is from gatewood or wood that is NOT under contract.
3. Most roundwood was purchased from direct sources, while chips could be from both direct and indirect (mixed) sources.

Survey Results

- Logger Training

Most of the fiber acquired in the procurement/fiber stream can be attributed to trained loggers (>90%) with one exception.

In areas with forest practices regulations, the emphasis is on the land rather than logging programs.

The use of trained loggers is generally lower in these areas.

Survey Results

- Who Monitors BMP Compliance
 1. Company staff, especially on deeded timber or controlled stumpage tracts
 2. Independent contractors
 3. Wood suppliers through signed agreements (with some spot checking)
 4. Government agencies (as a service or by law)

Survey Results

- BMP Compliance

Most companies/respondents report **>80% of BMP compliance** as verified through 3rd party audits

Each company has different protocols and reporting systems

- a. On-the-ground inspections
- b. Individual mill vs region vs company-wide reporting
- c. Data from contract consultants
- d. Wood-supplier contracts with spot checks
- e. Use of government agencies

Survey Results

- How is BMP Compliance Determined?
 1. Wide range of methods, highly variable
 2. Mostly moving averages/means of tracts visited
 3. Subsample within working environment of company
 4. No standardized approach among participants
 5. Specific tracts vs regional sampling
 6. Appears satisfactory for 3rd party audits
 7. Most have checklists/forms to document site visits
 8. Non-conformances are documented and corrected

Survey Results

- Promoting Reforestation
 - Terminology ---- Promotion???
 - Practically all responses used some indirect data sources supplemented with local knowledge (FIA, state nursery stats, state harvest data, etc.)
 - A few SICs produced reforestation brochures to distribute to landowners to fulfill this indicator
 - Little on-the-ground reforestation data are available
 - Several respondents expressed some frustration on how to address this indicator

Survey Results

- Verifiable Monitoring System or Continual Improvement
 - Several procedures used by respondents
 - Increase in numerical moving averages on an annual basis
 - Improvement through training
 - Addressing issues of non-compliance when they occur

Survey Results

- Addressing non-compliances when they occur is similar to adaptive cluster sampling where the goal is to sample groups not in compliance more frequently
- Method
 - Decide on an initial sample in the same manner as simple random sampling
 - Assign tracts to groups based on some variable you think is related to BMP compliance (e.g. ownership, or logger)
 - If one site within a group is sampled and found non-compliant then all tracts in that group would be assessed

This method encourages increased compliance by increasing the probability by that non-compliers will be sampled. Should statistics be desired, this method can result in smaller margins of error in some cases.

Survey Results

- Statistical approaches to documenting compliance or continual improvement are not typically used in monitoring programs (government or private) and may not be appropriate in all cases
- If used
 - May require considering tracts as compliant or not at a single point in time, without consideration for many important complexities
 - Margin of error and compliance rates would become important considerations

Margin of Error and Sample Size for

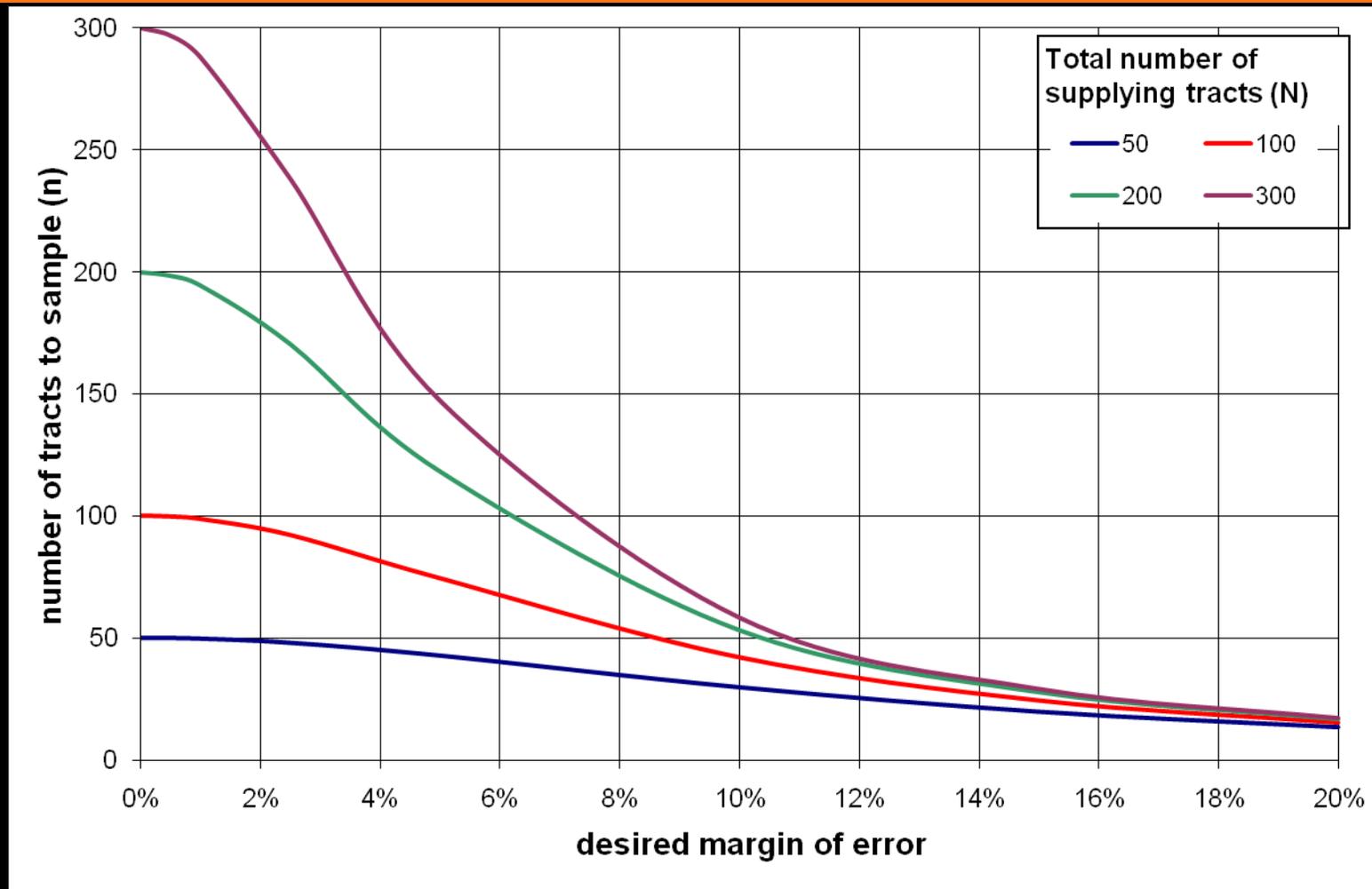


Chart uses an estimated compliance rate of 75% and z-values of 1.96. Sample sizes are estimated and margins of error may be bigger or smaller given the actual sample data.

Compliance Rate and Sample Size

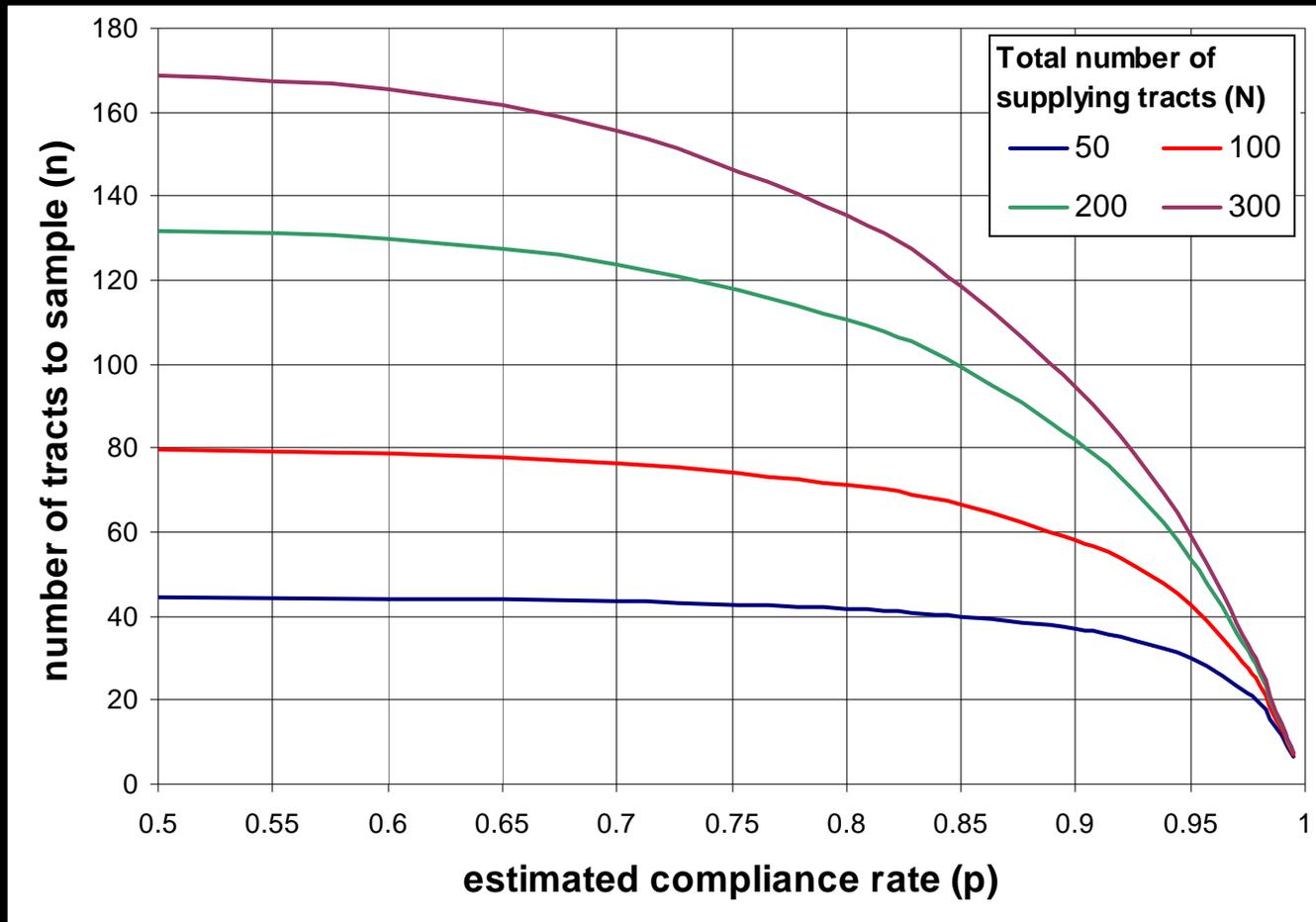


Chart uses a desired margin of error of +/- 5% and z-values of 1.96. Sample sizes are estimated and margins of error may be bigger or smaller given the actual sample data.

Findings

1. BMP compliance is high.
2. Use of trained loggers is high.
3. High percentage of fiber procured by SFI firms is under contract.
4. Increasing reliance on government agencies to provide on-the-ground BMP inspections.
5. No standard method was apparent in reporting BMP compliance. However, the 3rd party audits seemed satisfied with how member companies were addressing compliance.

Findings

6. Many participants are using moving averages to show improvements in BMP compliance rates.
7. To address continual improvement participants often focus on helping contractors/loggers seeking to improve performance. This approach is similar to the statistical approach of adaptive cluster sampling.
8. The “promoting reforestation” indicator was a puzzle to some respondents.

Acknowledgments

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
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- Survey Respondents

Questions or Discussion

