

Improving recovery rates on the one hand depend on the types of product that can be sold, but on the other hand the way logs are sawn. Proper sawing is key to improving recovery rates:

- Invest in the quality of sawing personnel by means of training and reward systems. Be careful when establishing a reward system to promote a combination of high production levels, high quality and high recovery rates. Focussing on one aspect increases the risk that other aspect get much less attention;
- There are two crucial positions within the saw mill that can easily influence the efficiency and need close attention:
 - The manager of the first (band) saw and of the second (edge) saw. Ensure well trained and well paid staff on these positions, to optimize the volume taken out of the logs and to reduce the number of mistakes;
 - The saw doctor who sharpens and provides saws and sawing blades. Slight mistakes in sharpening and lining out result in saw losses and increase the need for additional processing (planing) of wood.
- A well trained manager of the first saw should apply a very accurate bucking and the stem should be correctly outlined and turned in front of the saw;
- Eliminate deficiencies at the right moment. This should be done by a well trained operator of the edge saw and/or cross-cut saw who can work with laser lines and has the ability to saw as efficiently as possible.



Keys to successful improvements

An Amazon based company experienced a change in the saw mill yield from 31% to 34% for export products, which is a final product volume increase of 10%. This was the result of:

- purchasing new and more precise machinery (including a recuperation mill to transform more small sizes and a finger-jointing mill);
- introducing a controlled product flow system;
- further automating some of the processes; and
- a proper selection of the log-input. According to this company, the quality of log-input largely defines the yield, they increased the attention on the tree qualities to improve the average log-input quality.

They furthermore learnt that proper management of human resources is one of the keys to successful improvements. Next to yield increase, they now have very little down-time in the sawmill and realize more precise and controlled performance.