

John's Bombay surprise

LIVESTOCK farmer John Steele started his own sawmills in southeast Queensland in the 1960s.

John managed the mills during the day and worked a farm at night and on weekends, starting with clearing 324ha of land to grow beans.

He has a passion for innovation and at the age of 21 it was no surprise when he won a Ministry of Water Supplies award for building an effective irrigation system on his farm.

Today, John runs more than 450 Limousin and Charolais cattle and owns 405ha while leasing another 120ha.

John's experience in employing and managing industrial loaders at the sawmills and tractors on-farm made him well versed with their functioning, maintenance and repairs.

When John decided last year that he needed another tractor, his main consideration was that it would be tough and capable of sustained hard work.

He evaluated the different models offered by other brands, but said he couldn't find any other tractor on the market as robustly built as the Mahindra.

Features that prompted him to buy his Mahindra 7520-4WD were the spacious platform and the overall weight of the machine.

There was also an industry leading warranty that helped instil confidence in the brand.



Sold on strength: John Steele with his Mahindra tractor, built in India.

"I am very pleased with this tractor," John said.

"It has a lot of grunt.

"I use a seven-tine chisel plough and a 32-disc offset cultivator with it and the

tractor handles them with ease."

John said the combination of a high torque engine and a heavier chassis offered incredible traction, stability and control, even up gradients.

Surprisingly, it was still easy on fuel considering the amount of power it generated, he said.

The Mahindra 7520 is rated at 56kW, developed from its

direct injection, four-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine.

The tractor has Synchro-Shuttle with 12F/12R gearing, a two-speed dry reversible power take-off, telescopic

lower links and stabilisers, wet disc brakes and an impressive hydraulic lift capacity of 2.5 tonnes.

Two double-acting remote control valves with float and detent positions are also standard.

"I do long hauls with a loader and the shuttle is great," John said.

"I have used the tractor for 400 hours and haven't had to put a spanner to it.

"I am looking forward to buying another Mahindra soon."

The Mahindra's suspension seats are fitted with a retractable seat belt, arm rests, rainwater drain facility and weight and back adjustments.

The multifunctional electronic instrument cluster includes warning lights.

Halogen headlamps are standard and there is a rear working light.

The 7520 can be fitted with a wide range of implements as factory-fitted optional extras (including a self-levelling front-end loader and canopy).

Mahindra tractors come from the world's fourth largest tractor manufacturer.

Mahindra now produces 100,000 units a year from its four factories in India, with its Bombay factory the world's largest tractor manufacturing plant.

The company says it aims to become the world's largest tractor manufacturer in terms of units produced.



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