**F3 - 02-11-2021 Interview with male farmer (48) Cambil**

**First I would like to ask you some general information. What is your age?**

48

**And for how long are you cultivating olives?**

Well, my whole life. I am cultivating the olives from my parents, who inherited it from their parents. And I started with it because I didn’t want to study. Since I was little, I am learning how to do it. Now, it changed a lot, what machines to use, what fertilizers to put etc. We are adapting to what is necessary.

**And to which cooperative to you belong?**

[name], here in the village.

**And do you also have other activities that generate income?**

Yes, normally about 90% of the people who work in the olive sector have to have another job, because otherwise, it won’t be sufficient. Because the main problem we have is, the majority of the olive groves here are rented, they are not your own property. When you don’t inherit it from your parents, you have to go to other places to work. Because to really live from the olive farming, as your only activity, you have to have good olive trees, of very good quality, good machines and workers who help you and do good work, that are professional.

**And what kind of work?**

Here, everyone is working in construction, or painting, or helping other workers or olive farmers. They ask you for the pruning, or the harvest.

**And what kind of work do you do?**

I work in the field and also construction work.

**And which part of your income is dependent on olive production?**

About 70%, in my case.

**And how much time do you invest in the olive cultivation**

Almost every day, in a period of 9 months. Sometimes just 1 or 2 hours, but you need to check the trees, also in the weekends. To check if everything is alright, also if it’s a holiday or fiesta, you need to go and check, and work.

**And the other 3 months, you are doing your other work?**

Well, I don’t have a schedule, it depends. I can start my day in my other work and then in the afternoon, I will go and work in my field. Sometimes there are 6 hours, and sometimes 12 hours. It depends.

**And what is your education level?**

Primary school

**Do you have other family members that work in the field?**

No, I have 2 small children and my wife, sometimes help, but not that much.

**How much hectares do you own?**

I own 3 hectares, that is my property, and my parents have 2/3 hectares, that I have from my parents, and then I rent 4 hectares more. Here, everyone has it like that.

**And what is you cultivation method?**

Here, everything is traditional, because of the terrain we have here. Ecological production for example doesn’t work here, you need to help the tree, otherwise it won’t produce fruits. So, the fertilizers cost money.

**And do you have irrigation?**

Yes.

**And how do you do the olive harvest?**

Here, everyone does it manually. We have some small hand machines, that can shake the trees, because the terrain is too difficult. It is too difficult to go into the field with the tractors and other machines, because it is steep. And that is also expensive.

**And the pruning you do that also manually?**

We use chainsaw, and everything the cut, we chip and put on the soil, as ground cover.

**And do you do the pruning yourself?**

What I can I do, I do myself. Because the people, we like to do it our own way. So if you have time, you do it yourself, and if you don’t you try to find people who can do it.

**And what do you do with pruning waste?**

We chip it

**Everything?**

Yes we chip everything, and the larger parts we use for heating.

**And you don’t burn it in the field?**

No, about 80% is chipped and left in the field as ground cover. Since about 2 or 3 years, we chip everything. The machine goes through it and we leave the chips as ground cover. No, since 2 or 3 years I don’t burn it anymore.

**And why do you do it like that?**

It is very easy, because if you burn it, you depend a lot on the climate, if there is wind, there could be a risk that the tress catch fire. So in this way, it is better. I contact the people who have a chipping machine, they come and do it in the field. It is really easy. It is a little bit expensive, but for me it’s worth it.

**How many employees do you have/people help you on the field?**

For example in the pruning? 2 people.

**Which and how many fertilizers do you use?**

Every time a little bit less, because I use, how do I explain this. In 10 hectares, I use 5 kilos of ‘oxisogen’ for example, the treatment of herbs/weed, 5 kilos. I use less, because it is raining less, so you need to leave cover crops/ground cover and a product on the soil, I use only a little bit. I use it in March/April, when the weed is large, I cure it with glyfosato, which is cheaper.

**And what are the main challenges here, according to you?**

The market, because the countryside, you do all the investment, you work in the field, you do the pruning, you put the fertilizers, the treatments, and you don’t know how you will be rewarded for it. The market changes a lot, sometimes it is 2,60, sometimes 2,90, so it is very difficult. That is the main problem we have. And also here in the mountains, it takes a lot of working hours/man labour. Not only in the pruning, but for all the work, and mainly the harvest, which is done manually, with some hand machines. 90% of the people here do it like that. So, that is the main challenge we have. And also, about 80% of the farmers lease the land, so if the climate is bad and also the market is bad, you almost earn nothing. So everyone has other jobs for this reason. One works in the harvest, other in the pruning, others do something else.

**And do you also see challenges related to sustainability?**

I don’t understand

**Are there challenges regarding sustainability here?**

Yes, well people need to work really hard/fight for their work. Normally, there are a lot of people who do all the work themselves, with family members. So they, do the harvest, treatment etc. So, that is also a challenge, it depends as well. Every day, we are adapting to the new situation. In all the courses, you have to do courses to adapt to newest situation, to learn what is the best way to do the pruning, which fertilizers to use. Practically everybody uses chips for ground covers, there is no other alternative, you have to work with what is available.

**And if you could change of improve anything, what would it be?**

Here, I think here, that water is the main challenge, to use the water 100%, to not waste any drop, in the ponds. Because that is the principle enemy we have, the dry climate. Because it is raining less and less, and when it rains, it rains a lot, so the water will be, in 2 years from now, the main enemy of the farmers. If it remains like this, it will be bad. Because this year, normally it would have rained in the beginning of the autumn, but this didn’t happen. Because of that, we lost a part of the harvest, good harvest, almost 30%.

**Would you be interested to collect and sell the pruning waste?**

To be honest, I don’t know, because if it would be viable, if I could earn something with it, maybe. But here, almost everyone has a heat their houses in the winter, they use olive pits and wood from the pruning waste. So the wood is already used.

**And that is the total volume of the wood that is generating in the pruning is used for heating?**

Yes, it is practically everything. You can also store it, and use it for years. Everyone uses it.

**And what is the volume of the wood that is generated in your field?**

Normally, you need to prune the trees every three years, in 10 hectares, you could create about 6-7 tons of pruning wood. So in one year, you prune 3 hectares, then the next year, you do another 3 hectares, so every year you prune a part. Because it is difficult to do it. It depends on the climate, sometimes it is more or less, that all depends on the climate. Not every year is the same.

**And why or when would you be interested to sell your pruning waste?**

I don’t know how to explain this, it depends on who buys it, it buys how they do it. If they come and collect, there needs to be an agreement, on how much you will get.

**What benefits could the sale of pruning waste bring to you?**

Very few, because here, you sell 1 kg of pruning, at 7/8 cents per kilo. It depends, if you have anything left, apart from your own use, you give it away, or you keep it for next years.

**Oke, and why aren’t you selling the pruning waste now?**

Because I use all the wood for my own use, to heat my house. It depends, in the winter, I could use 4-5-7 thousand kilos. It depends on how cold the winter will be. Maybe your own wood is not enough and you need to buy it from other people. There are a lot of people, who also use a mix, a mix of orujillo and pruning waste.

**And would you be open to change your practices, for example, to grow cover crops/energy crops in the middle of the olive trees?**

At the moment it is going well, because we use the chips from the pruning waste as ground cover, to prevent erosion. And it is going well, so I don’t see a reason to change this.

**And on a scale of 1-10, how much interest would you have to sell your pruning waste?**

Well at the moment, we all use it, but it all depends on the conditions, how much we would earn, how it would go. Well, I don’t care that much, put an 8 or 10.

**And on a scale of 1-10, how influence do you think you could have on a project like this?**

I don’t know what to say to that, because everyone has their own thoughts, maybe one person sees this as something viable, and another maybe not. Put a 5 or 6.

***I am now showing + explaining the capability cards***

**So when you are looking at these cards..**

.. Well, yes here in Spain, in Andalusia and Jaen, all these cards that you put here are present here.

**And if you would choose some cards that for you are most important, which ones would that be?**

They are all important, let’s see. I think this one, care for the environment. This one, education and critical thinking. Well, they are all important, and they are reflecting the society, so I don’t know. And this one, self-consciousness and reflection.

**And why did you choose these?**

For me they are all important, and we are living this every day. So here, we have mental health, we have physical health, we have mobility. I don’t know what to say to you. I think from all these cards, these three fit best with me, with me personally, with my way of thinking.

**And would there be things you would like to improve?**

Everything could improve, for example, self-determination, public participation, and political participation, spirituality, there are a lot of things. Security, physical health. They are all important.

**Oke, but maybe there are things that are lacking, or you are less satisfied about?**

No, in the past years, everything, here all these aspects are present, really. We have mobility, we are doing really well, we have good health.

**You are satisfied.**

Yes, yes.

**Well, thank you very much.**

*After the recording stops, we still have an informal conversation, where I ask about his children. He has 2 younger children, and he wouldn’t want them to become olive farmer. Because it is too uncertain, you depend too much on the volatile market and especially on the climate, which is unpredictable.*