**F5 - Interview farmer #5 – male – Cambil – 57 - 02-11-2021**

**What is your age?**

57

**And how long are you already working in olive cultivation?**

Since I was 15 years old, I started.

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

[name].

**Do you have other income generating activities?**

No, my work in the field and also unemployment benefits.

**Ok and since when do you receive unemployment benefits?**

They are 450 euros per month, I receive it since I was 52.

**Before you had other work?**

Yes, then there was more work than now, now a lot is mechanized. There was more work in the field, for example in the pruning or other activities. But now a lot is mechanized, the people do it themselves now. It is good, because it makes the work easier, but a lot of job opportunities are lost.

**Ok, so you worked in other fields?**

Yes, I work in the field that I inherited of my father and apart from that, I also worked in the fields of others. In the agriculture. And also half a year, I worked somewhere else, in Murcia.

**Ok, also in agriculture?**

I was 6 months in my field, and then 6 months there, in fruit cultivation.

**So now you live from the income from your olive field and from the unemployment benefits**

Yes

**And what part of your income depends on olive cultivation?**

That depends a bit, but I would say about 60 percent. Sometimes I have more production than other years, so it is not always the same.

**How much time do you invest in olive cultivation?**

All my time, fulltime. It depends on the time a year, because in the winter we have the harvest and that takes more time than in summer. You need to do something as well.

**What is your education level?**

Primary education

**Are there also other family members that help you out in the field?**

No, my father died, so I work alone.

**And during the harvest and pruning, do you work with employees?**

No the pruning I do myself, it takes about 3 days.

**How much hectares do you have?**

I have about 400 trees, so that is about 3 hectares

**What is your cultivation method?**

Traditional, in mountains. Here, another system is not possible

**How do you harvest the olives?**

I use a machine, to shake the trees and the sheet on the floor, to catch the olives.

**And the pruning?**

I use a chainsaw and scissors.

**Do you own these tools yourself?**

Yes

**What do you do now with the pruning rests?**

I burn them in the field.

**Everything?**

Yes, I burn everything. There are people with flatter terrains, that chip it. They enter with tractors.

**But you don’t do that**

No

**Why do you burn it?**

Because I have to do something with it. If someone would say I will take your pruning rests, well that would be great. But now there is no possibility for that.

**How many employees help you with these activities?**

My sister, me and my brother-in-law. The three of us, and sometimes Alfonso helps out when he has vacation or it is weekend.

**Do other people also help you out, do you contract people?**

No, just the three of us.

**What kind of fertilizers do you use?**

I use ammoniac, of 21%, I use that in the spring. About 5 kg. And I use another fertilizer in winter, but I use more in spring.

**Siva: and why do you use 5 kg? how do you know you use 5 kg?**

I learned that from my father. We use approximately 5 kg. If it is a big tree, we use more, about 7, or a smaller, I use less. But in general I use about 5 kg.

**What are for you the main challenges in the sector?**

The intensive cultivation, especially here in the mountain area, we cannot compete with them. We make a lot more costs to harvest the olives than they do. That is the main challenges.

**Do you also see other challenges?**

The dry weather, well we have irrigation, but it doesn’t rain a lot. And if you don’t have irrigation, then you have a problem, because it is raining less and less. If there is a lot of rain in a year, you have much more production. This year for example, it didn’t rain that much and then production is lower and the olives stay smaller.

**Do you have irrigation?**

Yes, I do. But because it didn’t rain that much this year, we can also not irrigate that much, there is not enough water. I also have a kitchen garden, where I also have irrigation. We need to make use of it, although it is not that much water, it does help something.

**What are the challenges related to sustainability?**

Now, I try to use less fertilizers. There are less birds and less insects, because of the fertilizers. I try to use less, because there are also some good insects, that can be like a cure. We should use less fertilizers.

**Are there diseases in the olive trees?**

Yes, remoca, that are in the olive fruits and then you cannot use it.

**If you could improve something or change anything, what would that be?**

Well, like I said, use less fertilizers. And also that we would receive more help, for example because here is not that much work/employment, so some help for example from the CAP, especially because of the terrain we have here, that could help us, supplement our income.

**Do you receive any help/subsidy now?**

No, well we receive a little bit. But I have the feeling that they want to get rid of terrains like this. They are investing in machines and things like that, but they are forgetting small villages like ours. Have you seen the fields here in Cambil, with the steep hills. But they harvest those trees.

**Yes, it looks really difficult**

Yes, those with flatter terrains are a lot easier. They can use tractors and machines. But here not.

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

Yes I would

**How much volume do you generate, approximately?**

Of 400 trees, I don’t know. The wood, we also use for our chimneys.

**Why would you be interested to sell your pruning rests?**

Like I said before, if it is for a good cause, I would even provide it for free. They will also take away some work, because now we need to collect and burn it. And that also generates smoke.

**Would it be possible to collect it and transport it in the terrain that you have? Because you said your terrain is very steep?**

Yes it is possible, you would need a car to get it, but yes it is possible.

**Under what conditions would you be willing to collect and sell it?**

That there would be a company to come and get it, or that someone would tell me where to bring it. If they would say, instead of you burning it, we will take it. I wouldn’t mind. I would also be willing to bring it somewhere myself, no problem.

**What benefits could that bring to you?**

They take away some work for me, and sometimes also my olive trees catch fire.

**Are you open to change your practices? For example taking these pruning rests somewhere instead of burning it, but also maybe growing cover crops?**

Yes, I already have cover crops. Since 5 years, I don’t use any poison on the soil.

**On a scale of 1-10, how much interest do you have in a project like this?**

I am very interested, instead of burning it, that it can be used for something good. You can put 10.

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

Well, I know a lot of people, I can talk to them.

**Do you think people here would be interested to sell their pruning rests?**

Yes I think so. There are also people that put the rests in lanes and chip it, so they don’t have to burn it.

**We also want to know more about the level of wellbeing of the farmers here, and if there are things that you would like to improve or change.**

What I would like to change is that the olive oil will be valued more, that more people will buy it. Now the price has increased a little bit, but before, it was not worth the work, it was below the cost price. I would like to receive a fair price.

**And in these years that the price is that low, what do you do? How can you live from that?**

Not much, I need to adapt. If there is less money, I need to spend less money. If you can’t buy anything, you don’t buy it. And then there are good years, where you can buy the things you need or invest in a machine or something. Here in Cambil, we depend on olive cultivation, there is nothing else, also no factory or anything. We depend on olive cultivation. We need to hope that it will rain and that we have a good year.

**Here we have cards with different aspects in life that could be important to live well. For example, education, mental health, satisfactory work, mobility, self-determination, security etc.**

**If you see these cards, which aspects are most important for you?**

Care for the environment, satisfactory work and dignity.

**Why did you choose these 3?**

Because dignity, because we need to receive a dignified price to live well. That we receive a fair price, that I can live from the work that I do. Satisfactory work is also important, that is not that hard. And the environment, we need to take care of that. We should be more conscious about that, use less poison and fertilizers.

**And is that changing?**

Yes, people are using less poisons and are leaving cover crops. Before we didn’t have any cover crops, but what happened was when it rained, the soil went down with the water. Now we have cover crops, that is much better. Especially in the hills.

**Of these 3 aspects, are you currently satisfied? Or could it be improved?**

No I am satisfied. Well there are always things you could improve. But the changes should come from you guys, from the younger people. But here it is difficult for younger people, because there are not that much opportunities, people go somewhere else. They leave the villages. It makes a lot of difference if you live in the city or in a village. I like living in a village, I could never live in a city.

**And if you could choose 3 aspects that you would like to improve, that you are lacking?**

Equality, because now we don’t have equality between men and women, or with homosexuals.

**And in your life, do you experience that as well?**

No for me not, more in general

**And are there things that you would like to change in your life?**

No, equality between men and women, like I said.

And for example political participation, that they work for us, not fool us.

**Well, thank you very much, that was all we wanted to ask**