**W6CF - Interview worker coffee farm, male, 56, Chinchina - 12-7-2022**

**First, maybe you could start with a small introduction of yourself? Who are you?**

A personal introduction?

**Yes, please.**

My name is [name]. I’m this plot’s administrator.

**For how many years have you worked here?**

I’m about to make two years.

**And before you worked at another plot?**

Yes, at another plot from [name], too.

**What are the activities you do here in the plot?**

Here the activities are varied. For example, I have to plate, I have to fumigate, I have to recollect coffee, organize around, organize the plot, the garden. Everything. There is a wide variety of jobs.

**And do you live here in the plot?**

Yes.

**Who do you live with?**

With my wife.

**Ok, both of you. And does your wife also work in the plot?**

Yes, she feeds the personnel. She cooks for us.

**And, if me I ask, how old are you?**

56.

**Could you describe a regular day for us?**

What do you mean?

**At what time do you get up? What do you do?**

Ah, yes. We start at 6 am until 5 pm. And everything is already programed. For example today we are programed to fumigate against coffee borer beetle, then we go and fumigate against coffee borer beetle. If it is to fumigate against weeds we go and fumigate against weeds.

**Then you also start at 6?**

At 6 in the morning, yes.

**And until what time?**

5 in the afternoon.

**5 in the afternoon, ok. And what is that you enjoy about your day?**

Well, you have to enjoy it all. It is a routine but at the end you get the hang of it and what’s left to do is, well, the main thing is to have something to work on and you are happy because there is something to do and you’re generating money.

**How did you learn to do this job?**

In this sector that’s the every-day’s-bread. Because everything around here is about coffee. Since young, when you begin working, it is about coffee.

**You also worked since you were young?**

Yes. Since I’ve known myself, I’ve worked on the fields.

**Did your parents also work on this?**

No. My father was a construction foreman. And my mother was a housewife.

**Why did you choose to work on this sector?**

What should I tell you? Probably because of the lack of study. Without I didn’t have studies to look for something better.

**Why? What type of education did you have?**

I don’t have primary certification. So it is either getting into this or work in construction. There are no other options.

**And you prefer farming?**

The thing here… How do I tell you this? Here one has many alternatives because you don’t pay rent, you don’t pay services, you get the housing. You have the salary. You’re paid insurance. You have the pension. Then, it is better to be here than at the town. By logic, it is better. You have more commodities.

**Do you have a contract with the owner?**

Yes, it is some kind of contract but how do I put it? It is a contract without a termination clause. If I want to leave, I leave and if he wants to fire me, he fires me. And that’s it. No major issues.

**And with how many other people do you work with in the plot?**

Currently, I have three people picking up coffee and through the day I have two people with me. Meaning there are six people currently working.

**And you administer all of that? All of that process.**

Yes.

**And then you leave here, at this house?**

Could you describe your house? What is it like?

In what way?

**Yeah, what material is it made from? How many rooms does it have?**

Oh, the house has three bedrooms, one living room and one kitchen-dinner room.

**Is it your property?**

No. It is from the plot.

**From the plot. But you can live here because you work?**

By working here, I get the that right, to work here.

**Are there other workers that work on the plot?**

That other mister you first encounter. That’s the coffee processor. He lives in the other house in the plot. The house has two small houses for the additional people outside of the estate.

**Do you get out of here to other places?**

How do I tell you? For example, we usually leave from here on Saturdays for the market day.

**To the market? And where is the market?**

The one here in Chinchina or in Santa Rosa.

**And how do you get there? Do you have a way of transportation?**

Urban transport or intermunicipal ones.

**I see. What types of communication do you have? How do you look up for information? Do you have a phone?**

Ah yes, cellphones. The normal things. Cellphones and the television.

**And how do you look up for information in the coffee sector, on the plot. I don’t know. How do you receive information?**

By the location. Or by internet you get into the websites you’re interested on regarding coffee.

**Is it something you look into?**

No, technology is something that ran me over because…

**It is more about doing things and…**

Yes, it is more about being used to do something. Excuse me…

END OF PART 1.

**This plot, belongs to an association or cooperative?**

No, this is… I don’t really know. This is sort of a family thing. From a single family. But if they make part of an association, I wouldn’t know.

**And do you participate in any association or community?**

No. No.

**And why not?**

Because, what do I tell you? This work doesn’t leave time left for that. For example, here I finish at 5 in the afternoon. I have to take care of the dogs that hang around over there, turn lights on, organize. Write on the blog and go to rest. Then there is no time left to go anywhere.

**And in your free time what do you do?**

Sometimes trying to rest. Mostly to rest because the workload of the week is quite big. So, for example, on Saturdays I leave and the whole day is gone in the town buying going around, on the market, and such. And on Sunday you rest. You do the chores you have to do in the morning and then you relax and rest.

**Do you work from Monday until…**

Until Friday. From Monday until Friday.

**Do you think you have enough time to rest and leisure?**

No. Here you don’t rest until Saturday and Sunday. Those two days. The rest is work.

**What energy sources does this house uses?**

Electricity. It all is electricity.

**And the plot?**

It too.

**Also electricity?**

For everything. For the machines, everything is electric.

**Do you have access to drinking water?**

Well, here water isn’t that drinkable but it is… It can be used. That is managed by the coffee committee.

**Oh, it is?**

Yes.

**What is that…**

It is kind of a cooperative, something like that. And they are the ones who handle this topic. The water is not the most dignified but it can be used.

**And the coffee federation manages the water in this plot?**

In some sectors. Because Chinchiná is in Caldas, and their water is treated and a good one. But the one here is water mostly for working with coffee and it is trash.

**What water do you use to drink then?**

That one. We boil it and add a little of lime.

**If you could improve something in your house or in the plot, what would it be?**

To improve… to improve… If I was the plot’s owner, I might think about that.

**Oh yeah?**

Yeah, but no, no. Already if the relationship is good and there is harmony living somewhere, it is already good. So I think that compared to being a wanderer it is already a good improvement.

**What relevance does the natural environment has for you?**

The environment, for what I know, is very delicate. Because, supposedly, I’m and environmentalist. But in this country, we, the environmentalists, don’t get promoted. For example, you do your courses, you get your ID and such, and now go to deforest because the government won’t give you a contract or something in order to work something out. In that sense, the environmental topic is delicate here, in this country.

**How do you take care…**

Here we try that there is not much plastic bags waste and the kind on the *tafos.* So that they won’t generate heating. We do the recollection of trash and as much as possible. And where it is possible to plant trees, you plant trees. But that’s all one can do.

**And why do you do that?**

Because, what do I tell you? This goes for long and you should help to reduce the impact.

**Do you feel safe here?**

Yes, this area around here is… This region has a lot of bad reputation but lately….

**Oh, it used to be very different?**

Yes. Nowadays, the time I’ve been around, very good, everything very calm. Healthy.

**So, this plot is not yours.**

Not.

**And it is something you would like to have?**

Oh who wouldn’t? Who wouldn’t like to have a small plot. Of course. That would be very nice but very hard to have as an own project. It’s hard.

**It is hard. Does your income depend a 100% on this plot, on this job, or do you have any other income sources?**

No. Only from here.

**Do you receive your income every month or is it different with…**

No, weekly. We are paid weekly.

**And every week is the same or can it be different?**

No, no. We have a fixed wage. We are paid the minimum and every week we are paid for that week.

**Because you’re living in that house, do you have to paid for the house too or not?**

No.

**It is like a service?**

It is like an exchange. We serve them and they serve us. We give them the workforce and they give us the housing.

**With the income you receive from the estate, do you think you can live nicely with it? It is anonymous so don’t worry.**

No, no. Given the situation nowadays, I think there is not money than withstands.

**No?**

No, the thing is that the situation is very hard. Everything is very expensive.

**Is it? And has that change or…?**

No, nowadays it is getting worse. It has been getting harder. More expensive and, well, you try to defend yourself.

**What things are getting more expensive?**

No, well, nowadays everything is all the way to the clouds. The rice, the beans, the lenses. The oil. A year and a half ago you were able to buy a container of oil by around 18, 19 thousand pesos and now it is somewhere around 30. Then it is by half more expensive [sic].

**And the wage is the same.**

Yes, the wage is the same. In the country the wage is increased yearly and you go through the year with the wage given and that’s it.

**Ok, ok. Is it possible for you to save?**

No, the way things are now, no. There is nothing left. There is no money left to think about saving 50, 100 thousand pesos… No. There is not enough to have left.

**If you could have more income, how would you like to use it, or expend it?**

Well, in many things. Of course, but no. How do I say it? Yes, of course one would like to get something to work with, as an independent.

**You have said that you learnt this job by doing.**

Yes, by doing.

**And what are the activities that you think you can do very well. What are your…**

Well, by consistency I like that whatever I do, I do it well done. Even if you I don’t do much but it ends up well done. So that later… That’s the thing. The work was well done. And every task has to be like that because if you do one thing right but the other not, it is not worth anything.

**Would you like to learn more?**

Of course. Whatever you learn in life is never too much.

**Is there anything in specific that you would like?**

Specifically? There are so many things that I don’t know. Yeah, there are many things that of course one might want to learn and to get into that topic and leave through there.

**Do you sometimes receive trainings or courses on different things or not?**

Oh, no. That we don’t get. For example, before I was in a recycling place in Santa Rosa and there, we would receive capacitation from the *Mata and the cerna.* But other than that, no. You don’t see something like that.

**And how was this course?**

That’s where I got trained as an environmentalist. As an environmental promoter. That was because we always handled the trash from the town. We would be handed the trash door by door. With us, they wouldn’t take the trash outside. It was a very beautiful project but it got screwed. It went nowhere. But either way, that project was nice.

**How is your health or physical state?**

Well, good. I think it is good because… Problems, problems, none. A cold there but no.

**You can do the things you want to do or need to do.**

Ah, yes. Of course. Yes. I don’t have any incapacity, thanks to god.

**And do you have worries or…**

Who doesn’t? Of course. Of course. That’s the everyday bread. To have a worry for x or y reason. Because one thing didn’t happen, then the other. On the economic side. Then… Yeah, of course.

**Where do you get your food from? You said you go to the market?**

On the markets and supermarkets.

**Supermarkets too. And do you have a crops patch?**

No, not here.

**Do you think you have enough food for you and your family?**

Well, thanks to god there is enough for us to handle. We won’t have excesses but we won’t have to deal with hunger.

**So you leave here with your wife?**

Yes

**And do you have kids too?**

Not here. They already have their homes defined. But here we live with a granddaughter.

**Ah, with a granddaughter. And how many kids do you have?**

Three.

**Three kids. And do they work on the sector, too? In Agriculture?**

Yes.

Do they work with coffee too?

I don’t know if one of them that is around Brazil does but one of them works with the Spanish. And the son works around Ulloa. But he also administers a coffee plot.

**A plot like… like you**

Coffee. Yes, just like us.

**And they also learnt it from you?**

Yes. It is all a chain.

**And did they study too or…?**

Ole, up to what year did Edward did? Did he do until the sixth? Juliana has the seventh. Ah, the eighth? And Andrea did graduate from the eleventh.

**And did they go to school close to here?**

No, for them it was around Alcala Valle. We used to live around there. A long time ago. Yeah, when we used to live in Alcala they got to study in Alcala.

**In Alcalá. And after that they…**

Yeah, they did their own life. He got a wife; she got a husband and each one organized by themselves. Everyone by their own.

**Are there things you would like to achieve? Do you have dreams?**

Of course, to get your hands on a piece of land for it to be yours. At least for a house.

**For your…**

Yeah, so you have somewhere to live and put the kids and the grandkids in there. So that they won’t roll around, right? That would be very nice. A very beautiful dream.

**How is your relationship with the community?**

Well, good. I think it’s good because I haven’t had a problem with no one. Well, yeah, with the neighbors… Not that good nor bad, our relationship.

**Do you ever make reunions?**

No. For example, we are not really about visiting people. If someone visits me then it is ok. But I don’t like going elsewhere. Yeah. If they come here, they’re welcomed, but I don’t like going elsewhere. It is not my style.

**Now I have… I would like to do an exercise. We have talked about different topics. I have some cards with all of these topics and I would like to know from you what relevance they have to live well. For your well-being. I would like to talk about each one**

**I would like to start with safety. Where would you put it?**

It would be higher rather down lower.

**You would put it higher. And why is that?**

Because a lot of things depend on that. Either on health or either on safety. That thing of thefts and… You know what I mean? Therefore it is something very important.

**And do you feel you have that safety or are there things that can be improved in that sense?**

No. I think that up to now, safety is ok. Yes. Because here, if you feel something you call the base and they arrive here. Then I think it is good. And if it is about health, that’s indispensable.

**Then, higher. Well, here I have physical health… Also high? And why do you put it high?**

Because these go together. If you have safety and you don’t have physical health, you don’t have anything.

**It is sort of the basic one?**

For one to at least be able to move and be able to say I’m ok.

**And what about a satisfactory work? What importance does it have for you?**

It could go here because it is united with everything.

**It is also connected?**

Yes, of course. When you have a good physical health, you have all the disposition to work.

**Do you feel satisfied with your work right now?**

Well, yeah. Yes, because in reality I’m not about sitting down and say, I’ll stay here. And if there is no work one might die from boredom. They go together. Everything is a chain.

**And in that sense, is there something that you would like to change? Something that might be needed?**

Here, here, no. Because in reality here you say or ask for something and they will look for the way for it to happen. So I don’t think so.

**And mental health?**

That is for crazy ones. Somewhere here, let’s see.

**A lower level.**

Because, again, everything is coming out to be…

**Everything is connected, yes.**

Everything connects itself. If mentally you’re not ok, you don’t have a physic. Physically you’re done. Or no?

**How do you feel in that matter?**

Good. I mean, I’m not in a ward yet. But I’m on my way, I believe.

**And taking care of the environment, what relevance does that have for you?**

That has to glue all of this together. If you take care of the environment, you will have all of this together. Yes, or no?

**And in what way do you take care of it?**

Well, you have properly follow the protocols that have already been stablished. To collaborate. Not that you will take care of it but to collaborate so that the environment recovers.

**And has something change on the environment during there last years around here?**

What has been hard is the global warming.

**Oh, it is noticeable here?**

Because these used to be very cold lands. But not anymore , now they have a higher temperature.

**And what are the effects? What can you notice?**

Well, imagine, everything that… The waters are being reduced; everything deteriorates. Therefore I think it is a very delicate issue.

**And the leisure and entertainment?**

Leisure and entertainment. This is highly required for physical health. Because if you don’t work out, it’s over. Then, this would fit somewhere here.

**And do you think you have enough opportunity for it?**

Well, what do I tell you. No. For example, I used to like sports a lot and doing exercise. But now you don’t have time nor energy for it. For example, I’m done at 5. What will I be doing going to play a match? You don’t have enough energy.

**Because you are working in the plot in a very physical way.**

Yes, one is tired and gets stressed. So I don’t see the…

**And self-determination?**

Self-determination. There are things that one might think of but can’t accomplish. Therefore, you are not determining anything. You are always stuck.

**Do you think you can make your own decisions, for example?**

Ah, yes, of course. For example, you might say “ I want this” and you do it. Then, you do have that judgement so you can…

**For example, at your house, who is the person who makes the decisions?**

She and I.

**Together?**

Yes. It is, for example, an agreement. If the woman would be hitting you that would be messed up.

**And the residence?**

It is good, but if only it was yours. Isn’t it? That you could say “this is mine and I’ll stay here and no one moves me from here. But either way, the house here is very spacious, very good.

**You are happy with it.**

Yes.

**And social relationships?**

More like a few. Yeah, I’m not much about relating myself. I’m always more on the side.

**And nutrition?**

That one is ok. Because, thanks to god, one doesn’t lack with what to get a *drug* nor what to eat with.

**And public participation?**

Partially, yes. Because if you don’t relate with someone in public participation you wouldn’t even get a job.

**What do you participate in?**

In everything related up until politics.

**Ok. Not that.**

You have to because in the rest there is no cake. Then, where there is cake, you get left out.

**Ok. Then you don’t participate in politics or in…**

No, not on that. That’s a big lie in this country. The worst thing that they invented here was politics.

**You don’t have trust in politics.**

No, not at all.

**And why is that?**

Because they all offer what they can’t give. For example, you come with them. And you can’t give me something that you cannot give me. When you depend on them. Isn’t it? Then, that’s the distrust in politicians. That here in Colombia, if there is cake, they make a chain and everyone else are screwed.

**Then you don’t want anything related to…**

No, not about that.

**Now, to finish, I have this one. Education and knowledge.**

Regarding education, what I mentioned already. And on knowledge, plenty. But from the school of life as it is known. Where you get into one thing or the other and then you learn from all of that. Then you get knowledge and you can put it in practice. Then you learn… For example, if you don’t know anything, you learn to place a brick, to build a house. These is knowledge that remains and one day it might be useful.

**Here I have some white cards. I don’t know if there is any aspect that is very important for you but we haven’t discussed. I don’t know if maybe a topic is missing.**

No, I think the thing worked out very well. We coincide in many things.

**If you could improve or change something about these topics, what would it be?**

Which one would it be? No, I think that for me these topics are there… Maybe, making them more practical. Yes, that they’re practical. Not only that they are said but put them in practice. Implement the ideas. That would be something good. Because, look, on the environment. People talk and talk but what do they do for the environment? They do nothing. I’d say that instead of talking so much, they should land it and do it. They should implement what they say.

**But that doesn’t happen?**

That doesn’t work much.

**And why? Well, a hard question but maybe you know why.**

Because of what I told you, mostly about politics. Because that is driven by politics. Because money is put in for one thing but it won’t go towards what it was really put in for. Then, the projects are not done. As I told you, I am an environmental promoter and I’ve never known of a governamental contract to improve regions or roads. Nothing. Therefore, everything is a big lie.

**Yes, yes.**

Yeah, that’s right.

**At the end, I would like to show you an image. As I said, we are interested in the residues that are generated here. And we would like to understand if it is possible to use, for example, those residues such as cacao cobs or coffee pulp, transport it to a plant where it could be transformed into different products such as…**

Fertilizers…

**Or also in biocrude, sort of a fuel, and this biocrude could be used, for example as biofuels in ships and planes. Or in bioplastics.**

From these residues?

**Yes, we are doing research**.

Well, that would be very good. Because, look at the amount of pulp that generates from this. For example we… I split the cacao and I through the shells to the roots of a banana plant or something, for it to decompose and for it to become fertilizer. Then it is being used, reutilized, the product. But if that happens to work for biofuels, that would be very good.

**And why would it be very good?**

Because imagine that we don’t have to extract petroleum?

**And then, do you also work with the pulp? With the residues?**

Yes, here all of that is used as fertilizers, to feed worms. Everything is used.

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

That is used as an organic fertilizer. To not use chemicals. Therefore, it is very good, very advantageous.

**Then you don’t use chemicals in the plot?**

Yes, but this is like a supplement. On one hand, so it won’t go to waste. On the other hand, it does some benefits to the plants.

**So what do you think then about the possibility… Is there a possibility to transport the pulp to a place where it can get converted?**

Of course, it can be done. As long as it brings a benefit out of it, of course.

**And what would be the challenges?**

The time.

**The time?**

For there to be time, and to organize with the leaders so it will be done.

**And how it is like to work with the pulp?**

No, it doesn’t have any… For example, it is thrown… For example, here, it is in a strainer. It is mostly through into a container and it get decomposed… It gets a very awful smell.

**It does?**

Yes.

But it… When it comes, it is partially already dried. And then, you put it in a plant and you’ll see that you fed the plant.

**Well, these were my questions, I don’t know if there is anything that you would like to tell or share about…**

No, no. The idea was to collaborate with you with the interview but it seems to me that everything is ok. I don’t have concerns.

**Thank you very much.**