**F17CF - Interview farmer #17, female, Santa Rosa, 54 - 17-7-2022**

**Can you first start with a small personal introduction?**

My name is [name] .. I am coffee producers and I am part of the association [name] and of [name]of specialty coffee. We are here in the area of [place], which is a small village.

**Ok, and what is your age?**

54

**And with who do you live here?**

Here I live with [name], my daughter, het partner and her son.

**OK, so you live here with the 4 of you**

Yes

**Since when do you live here?**

Here in this village, since 5 years.

**And before that?**

Before that we had a plot in *[place].* A coffee plot.

**You explained that you have different.. how many hectares in total do you have here?**

In total 10 cuadras

**And you told that you have 1 cuadra of coffee, you have cows, 5 cows, chicken and pigs.**

Yes, 2 *cerdas de crilla.*

**Could you describe a normal day for you, your activities in a normal day. What is it that you do, at what time do you get up?**

Normally, I get up at 5 in the morning. It is a story of my life, because here in the country side you need to wake up early. First I am thankful that I wake up and that I have another day. I thank God. Then I take a shower and I start with my tasks here in the countryside. In my case it is milking the cows. We do that at 5 o clock, so we can ‘despechar’ the milk at 7 o’clock.

**And how do you milk the cows, by hand?**

Yes, here we do it by hand. We do it with the whole family, with Millerno (partner of the daughter), with the kid, the kid helps out as well, he knows how to do it. Then, well I do some chores in the house, I take care of the chicken, prepare the breakfast. I also do work with the community, here in the village. I give a lot of myself, to help others, because that makes me happy. I like to help the people. Here I also work with the women in the village, with the topic of specialty coffee.

**And what do you do?**

Help them, because, I was sent by SENA to work with them, so that they also learn about these topics. And this is something that helped them a lot, not only with me but also other women. Well I am not sure how it is now, but my intention with my own coffee brand is also to help them. (*she has her own coffee brand, where she sells specialty coffee, but also beauty products made of coffee).* So I can give them employment opportunities, to work with them. That is the only thing I want, to help. I want to help all the farmer women ‘mujer campesina’. Because for me it was also tough, and I see women with 3 or 4 children, who work in coffee, under the rain, under the sun. What I want, if God wants to, is that with my products, I can benefit these women.

**Ok, so with this brand, you work together with women who also have their own plot?**

Yes

**Ok**

That is my way of thinking, to always help the mujer campesina. Those women with children who need a lot of support.

**What do you enjoy in a day, of your activities in a day?**

What I enjoy most is to harvest the coffee, when I need to make a specialty coffee. For example the coffee that I have here is a blend of a ‘honey’ with a ‘lavado’. So what I like most is to take care of the coffee process, to take care of the drying, that everything is going well. And to make sure that all the nice attributes of the coffee, you can taste again in this cup of coffee. That is what I enjoy a lot.

**And since when did you start with your own brand?**

With my own brand? Since 1 year I work only with specialty coffee. And I also took 2 to 3 months to think about my brand, also with the beauty products.

**How did you learn how to do this work in the fields, and also to start your own brand?**

Well, about the fields, I am going to tell you a bit about my life. I got married when I was 16 years old, I got to know my mother when I was 17 years old, when I already had a child. (*She gets emotional).* I don’t like to talk about this topic, because it brings back memories.

**If you don’t want to talk about it, you don’t have to.**

Well, I got married when I was 16 years old. And I married a man who grew up between the coffee plants. So from there on, we started to live a life in the country side. I didn’t know anything about it, even though I was born on the farm of my grandmother, I didn’t know anything about it. But really, I was always in love with the coffee beans, always, always. And 5 years ago, when I came here to this beautiful village, I started to work with, I saw the women, and I have them work to harvest the coffee here in my plot. Because for me it is important to have a good quality harvest. And then I saw all the needs that they have, so then I started to work with them. And I saw, we need someone who can educate us more. Because everyone has their own little plot. So I asked help from mister .. and from the municipality, and then they sent SENA to this village. We did a course with them on the ‘derivadas’. And that helped us, since then we sell products on the markets. And then, they did ‘catacion, that was a bit difficult for some, to study catacion, so we did the first level, and I continued, I went to Pereira, which was difficult, because I had to start walking at 6 o’clock in the morning, so I could be in Pereira at 8 o’clock.

**You had to walk?**

Yes, so I did some levels of catacion, and also of different methods of coffee.

**Ok, with SENA?**

Yes, that made me fall in love even more with coffee, with those coffee beans ‘granitos de café’. I don’t care if it rains, or if the trees are high, I like it. Even if it rains, I feel happy harvesting coffee, because I need to process specialty coffee. These small number of coffee beans, on these high branches, give me satisfaction and that is where I took this photo (*the photo on her coffee brand*). I love this photo, it is what I feel. Because I feel happy when I am here, harvesting these coffee beans. Because, it is difficult. You can have a plot, right, but it is difficult to work on it, because the economic situation is difficult. To manage a plot, and to get some economic benefit out of it, that is difficult. That is why I put effort in growing specialty coffee, to add some added value. So they pay me a bit more, for this coffee, or for this shampoo.

**And what is the price. Or well, what was the price you received before you started your own brand and the price you receive now. What is the difference?**

The difference is that I, thanks to God, well I am going to talk really positive about the associations. Because that is an entry point for us farmers and especially female farmers. I owe a lot to the president of the association, which is Marleny, because she gave a lot to us, female farmers. So, the help that they give us, permits us to sell our products on a market, which is not easy. Via this association, I can bring some attention to my coffee and sell by arroba de café for a good price. And even though the price is high and very good, the price of fertilizers is also high. But I put my coffee in my own bag, and in that way, I give some added value to my coffee. That is the added value.

**Where do you do this process of roasting and grinding? In the association?**

That is the other part of the association, Asorosa, to give added value to the coffee by roasting it. There are about 165 coffee farmers member of the association that benefit from that. For example, I can go there with my coffee, and because I received the training from the SENA, I can roast my own coffee there. That is the benefit. I can go there to roast my coffee, trillar, catar/taste. And I can sell my own coffee, and I can tell them what kind of blend it is, with which attributes.

PART 1

So in this cup of coffee, you can taste all the attributes and the satisfaction. And I take it to the market, so that everyone that comes there can get to know my coffee.

**Since when are you member of the association?**

About 3 years ago, I became member of the women’s association and about 1 year ago of AsoRosa.

**And do you see a difference in the position between men and women, in the country side, or in the cultivation of coffee?**

What can I say. There are men that work really hard in the fields as well. I talk about my husband, we are a family of 6 people. My husband, 4 children and I. We raised those 4 kids in the countryside and my husband worked all his life really hard. He was born with an illness in his blood, for him it was difficult to work. We all worked really hard to raise our children and to bring them forward. So that they could study, that they could move forward. It is important that they could study. As father, he worked really hard. For example, my daughter, thanks to God, her husband also helped her to study. She studied agroindustry in an institute. And my other daughter, she studied ‘..’. But she has the same illness as my husband because it is genetically. So she can not, but it is hard because the ‘ICTS’ helps out a lot, but it is a debt that you have. Thanks to God, my children went forward, and they love the countryside. They are very proud of their mother, they are happy to help me and work with me on my products. In Santa Rosa I have a little ‘terrace’ with a laboratory, where I do my production. So that is another thing I have.

**And how do you move around here? We saw that the roads are sometimes difficult here. Do you have a car, or a motorcycle?**

Here, a jeep passes by, at 7 o’clock, it passes 3 times a day. Also, we have a car. But sometimes it is not possible to go, but with the jeep, it makes it easier to move around. And what I do if I need to leave very early, I walk down and take a jeep there. So we have a good transport system.

**Ok, and do you have access to internet here?**

Via de mobile network.

**And how do you look for information, about the sector, or things that happen. How do you look for information?**

I am part of the community organization here, thinking a lot about how we can help the community, always thinking about the female farmer. Because I had a very tough life during my youth. Thanks to God, I have what I have now. But that is only after a lot of years. I want that they don’t suffer that much. I want that they can work in their houses, in their fields or kitchen gardens. To bring them more opportunities. We all have these plots and these patios. We can do things here, for example the milk, the chicken. That we have something to sustain ourselves.

**Because what are the difficulties here, for the people in the country side, and maybe especially for women?**

The roads. The roads are difficult, there are a lot of small villages in the municipality of Santa Rosa, I have asked to the municipality if they can improve it, but then they just come for a little moment and they bring some machines, but they don’t do a lot. So for me, the roads, the health and connectivity for the young people. Because we have a school, but we don’t have internet there.

**So there is internet here in the farm, but not in the school?**

Well, here we only have it via our cellphone, because we pay for it.

**Ok. In this house, do you have access to electricity, to water, all those services?**

Yes, the water comes from the village. We have water from here.

**And if you could improve anything in your house, what would that be?**

I would improve, the beneficiadera del café, coffee processing. I suffer because it is in bad conditions. I suffer to produce coffee of high quality. I separate the pulp from the beans with my hands.

**Ah, you do that by hand?**

Yes, because my beneficiadera is not very fit to produce coffee of high quality. For example, the coffee that you are drinking now has a very good body, you feel it in your mouth.

**Yes, and everything is done by hand? What a work**

Yes, it is hard.

**So that is something you would like to improve.**

Yes

**Ok, and how important is the environment to you?**

That is everything. The environment, we are now in a time where we are starting to notice it. We work a lot with the community, also about this topic. We need to take care of the environment, and at this moment, the environment is dying.

**Do you see or experience differences?**

Yes of course, the climate change. Those are effects of not taking care of the environment. For me the environment is very important.

**And in what way do you take care of the environment?**

As coffee producer, we take care not to throw any residues in the water. That leachate (lixiviados), that is destructing the environment as well. We take care where we leave the pulp. We have a separate space, where we collect the pulp and we can use the leachate as fertilizer as well. We start to use that instead of chemicals.

**What do you do with the residues of coffee, the pulp, the miel?**

In reality, the residues I generate is a small amount and I don’t use it that much yet, because I just started to learn about it. I am convinced that I am never done with learning. So, the coffee, I don’t use water when I depulp, because I am convinced that all those sweets bring special flavour to the coffee, and we also take care of the environment while doing that. We take care of the water. And the water that we use to wash the coffee, is one liter per kilo of coffee. So that water falls in a tank, and when it is done, we use that to fertilize the garden and things like that.

**Do you feel safe here, in this house and in the community?**

Yes

**It is quiet here?**

Yes, very quiet.

**And this house and this plot, is that your property?**

No that is family property.

**And with how many people do you own this?**

There is Millerno, the mother of him, this is the complete family. The family of him and the family of my daughter.

**And all these people live from the income of this farm?**

Yes, more or less.

**Are there some that have other income streams?**

Yes, my 2 sons yes, they work apart and live somewhere else.

**Can you live well from the income you receive?**

I would say no. It is little for all the necessities of everyone. Here look, it is very big. We have cows, we have pigs, we have coffee, but still it is not enough to improve, to move forward. That is why I want to add value to the coffee.

**If you could receive more income, how would you spend that?**

I would spend that on improving the coffee trees, I would go for the coffee, always. I am passionate about coffee.

**What are your dreams, things that you would like to achieve?**

My biggest dream, apart my God, that I always have in my heart, is that one day I can say that I have a company of coffee and to help all these female farmers. I don’t know if God will allow me to achieve that before leaving this earth, but that is my dream. So that they can work in their homes, for their children, for their parents, with their husband.

**Because these women have their own plot?**

Normally, in this village, this village is big, but there are 3 or 4 plots that are very big, like 20 or 30 cuadras, but normally, the people have their house and half a cuadra or 1 cuadra. That is not enough to sustain yourself, especially not if you have 3 or 4 children. And sometimes they are alone. So my dream is to have a company where I can help all these women.

**And to add value to your coffee**

Yes, I want my company to grow and that I can say that I give employment to all these women. That would be amazing.

**What are the challenges to achieve that?**

The challenges are a lot. First, to start something like that you need money. To start a company, you need money. Without money we cannot do anything. We can think about the logos, about a warehouse and everything, but the main challenge is the resources.

**Do you receive support from the government or other institutions for this?**

Yes, the value to be associated is also in this, because we receive a lot of support. Now, I feel, it is an honour for me that you sit here in front of me. With the president of the association. That you come until here, to come and see the house of a female farmer. That has a big value to me. And that is also because I am member of the association. In this moment, you are getting to know my story.

**Yes, and that is important to you**

Yes, very valuable. It has a big value to me.

**How is your relation with the community here?**

Very beautiful, very united. I would say, it is perfect, the relationship I have with all the people here.

**Are there also sometimes issues with inequality or discrimination in the community?**

Here, we have worked on these topics in the community, because we don’t permit discrimination here. Because we are all the same. We are all children of God.

**And you worked on this topic in the community?**

Yes

**In what way?**

We get help from the municipality. We have conferences, thinks like that.

**Ok, and do you feel that you have the same opportunities as other people in the community?**

Yes of course.

**And here on your plot, you work with your family, or are there also other workers that help with for example the coffee harvest?**

Sometimes, but not very often. Mostly we work with the family.

**Now, I would like to do an exercise. We have talked about different topics, aspects of life. And I would like to know from you, how important these aspects are for you, to live well. What importance that aspect has in your life. If it is most important !!!!!! or the least important ! or somewhere in between. I would like to talk about these aspects topic per topic. And the first is social relationships.**

Social relationships, very good. I think we have good relationships with very lovely people. Starting with the municipality, from who we received so much support.

**And what importance does that have for you in your life?**

The importance is that I feel supported. When you don’t have that, you don’t feel well.

**Ok, so where would you put it, the most important, less important?**

The most important.

**And physical health**

That is important, because when you don’t have that, you don’t have anything. I struggled a lot with diseases, to be able to move forward. That is why I am where I am now, halted. So for me it is very important.

**Ok, so you put it also on top. And is there a doctor nearby? When you need assistance, do you have access to a doctor?**

No, when someone gets ill here, you need to go to Santa Rosa. Also we help a lot, when someone gets ill in the night, we help out to drive them to Santa Rosa. We don’t have a doctor here, but the village is nearby.

**And mobility?**

Mobility needs to be regulated, because of the roads. I don’t know.

**And is that important to you, to be able to go to different places?**

Yes for course, the mobility is very important. Where do I put it.

**And security?**

That is very good

**And care of the environment?**

Ah, that one I put on top.

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

I would say, educate the people, ask for support to educate people that don’t have that habit. That they know how to take care of the environment. So yes, I would like that.

**Nutrition?**

That is something, if we don’t have good nutrition, we cannot work well. Especially with children. That sometimes happens. This is something we need to work on.

**And do you have enough to feed yourself and your family?**

Well, thanks to God, we can feed ourselves every day.

**Do you have a kitchen garden here as well?**

Yes of course, we have oranges here, mandarine, limon, plantain. We always have had the garden.

**And mental health?**

Ai mental health, that is something I think about a lot. Sometimes I have stress. For example, I suffer a lot from this. I need to think about a lot of things, a lot. I need to do so many things. So mental health needs work here. I would put that somewhere here.

**Ok, that is something that you would like to improve?**

Yes

**Because of the worries that you have?**

Yes, the worries day to day. Sometimes, we are working ill. But when you are ill, you still need to work. There was a day when there was the market. I was ill, but I said to myself, no I am going, because it is needed to go, it is an opportunity for me, it brings be something. So I went and the president gave me some pills, but I stayed ill. But you need to fight it. Because it is important to go.

**And you don’t have the liberty not to go? When you are ill, you have to work?**

Because that is how I am raised. But sometimes, when I am ill, I say I can’t go to work. And then they say, take care of yourself, health comes first. But I say to myself, no I am not going to fall, I am going anyway. And I think a lot about things.

**And do you have people with who you can share those worries?**

My children. My 2 daughters, they are my friends.

**And education and knowledge?**

Well education and knowledge, I have little. I have told you before that I was raised without a mother, right? Because of things that I never talk about, they are my parents, my father and mother that gave me what I have now. Those are things of them. But I was a child that they brought to an institute. I could educate myself only very little, and then I got my children. So education, only a little. *(she gets emotional).*

**That is something that you would have liked to have had differently. But now, you have a lot of knowledge**

I looked a lot to educate myself. I had primary school, some basic things. But I had my age, and my children, and I started to learn how to read and other things that are important in life. Also with my little children, I did it. I am sorry (*get’s emotional)*.

**No, take it easy**

And now, I had the opportunity to become the president of the community, and for me that is a big opportunity. For me, to be able to help all these women. Because my whole life, I have suffered. I married when I was very young, and when I was a child. So I want to help, my heart is always helping, because I don’t want other people to suffer. So thanks to God, I had the opportunity to be board of the community, to be part of the association, the municipality. So I educated myself a little bit. I am a happy woman, in this moment, at 54 years. Little by little I am climbing up. I feel proud of myself. It has been hard work, so my children would move forward. I could never study, I want them to study and have the opportunities that I lost. So I am happy now. I remember sad things, but it also gives me a lot of happiness to talk about this. Because, with 54 years, I can say, I did primary school and secondary school and I had the opportunity to be in the university, to do my agricultural practices. In the Technological University of Pereira (UTP), the opportunity to study different courses in SENA. That gives me a lot of happiness.

**Yes, and your children, did they study?**

Yes, they studied, of course. My daughter, that is here, she did all this, she helps me out a lot with my company. She is a big support. My 2 daughters are my big support. My sons, they are working now. But the lived all the time with me here. They want me to be well. I want to keep on fighting to fulfil my dreams and one day, Susan, to have a spectacular company. That is a dream that, if God wants, I want to achieve.

**Here I have the topic of residence.**

I have a house, I need to do a lot of things, but I feel very rich because I have somewhere to live, somewhere that provides us with food, somewhere where it is quiet, although we have our worries. For me, that is important.

**And free time and play. To have free time to rest?**

Very little, I don’t have time for that, I live a very busy life. First because what I said, I like it a lot to work with people that need it. So that takes a lot of time, it also takes time to work. So for myself, I have very little time left. I don’t have time for me, that I say I am going to rest.

**Is that something that you would like to have more?**

Yes, I would like that. For example, I said to the president, you are also working so hard. How nice would it be this week to take one moment, one moment for ourselves. We also need time as well.

**And what do you do when you have free time?**

Really, I don’t have free time. All the time I am occupied. I go down, to the field, work with the onions or something. I don’t have the time. But it is something I would like to do, with the president, with my daughter, because she also doesn’t have time. I would like to say, some on, let’s take one moment, go to the thermal baths, go to a place where we have never been to. Because here in the countryside, you don’t have time to do that. So let’s go. And share time with my children and grandchildren. Because I have lovely grandchildren.

**Yes, one of them we just met here right?**

Yes

**And public participation, how important is that for you?**

What do you mean exactly?

**For example, what you are doing in the community, or the association, or maybe in politics.**

For example, I do a lot of public participation. The day before yesterday, I had a meeting with the coffee committee, directive board, I was representing this village. So yes, I do that a lot.

**And why do you participate that much?**

Because I don’t want farmers to suffer. I want them to be better. Because they work until the night. You are here today on a Sunday, but when you are here at 7 o’clock in the morning, you will see men and women working in the fields. In the sun, rain. It is very sad that the farmers don’t receive help. They should be a priority. But no. A few days ago, I was in a meeting, I talked with the engineers about the roads. I said, engineer, the coffee that you are drinking right now, you don’t know how much time, water, rain, a poor farmer needs to go through, we are processing this coffee so you can drink it in 10 minutes and can say, how nice. We don’t think about what is behind that cup of coffee. One cup of coffee has such a big story to tell. So I want the farmer to have it better. Because they are the once that suffer. That is what I think, I don’t know.

**And the problem is the price you receive for it, or are there other problems?**

First, the price is currently very good. But what happens, a lot of coffee flowers have dropped, because of the climate change. I can give a comparison. If the country harvests 500 bags of coffee, but now, we are harvesting 400 bags. Because it dropped. If there is no heat, there are no good flowers. Climate change is threatening our harvest. Why is that? Because of climate change. We need to educate people that they should take care of the countryside. Not to use too much water in the process of beneficio, not to leave the pulp. That is one of the topics.

**I have 2 more cards. Self-determination, that you can make your own decisions.**

I think that when I decided something, I do it.

**Yes, I believe that**

I thank God, and I wake up every day with that positive attitude. I thought a lot about this topic, the topic of beauty *(related to her beauty products made of coffee residues).* Because that was work part of a work called Paisaje dorada (golden landscape), with the women here. But I worked so that they could work in groups, there are now 7 women that worked on it. But it didn’t work out, I am the only one with my own brand here, of beauty products and specialty coffee. I hope that one day I can help them as well to do it. One day, I can pass on the learnings that I got. Step by step I will do it.

**And where do you produce these?**

In my house, in Santa Rosa. I also have an apartment there. I have a terrace where I do my process. There is where I do it. It is a very clean patio where I can do all this.

**Finally, I have satisfactory work**

Yes, my work is satisfying, that is what I think. I am very positive, I know my products are very good and I think it can help a lot of people, so I think that is satisfying. So I put it here.

**Ok, and here I have some blanc card, because we talked about a lot of things, but maybe I missed something that is also important to you? Or maybe it is complete.**

Well, I think, all the things you asked me, it is very complete.

**Ok, and now I want to show you the idea where we are working with. (showing the image + explaining)**

**What do you think of this idea, to use residues to produce other things?**

Well, to me that is excellent. I think that is a good proposal. Here in this farm, we have worked a lot with SENA on the topic of compost. But this project is very good, because this will help us to take care of the environment, which is really necessary. Here, what we have, we have residues from the kitchen, from the pulp of coffee, cow manure. And we need fertilizers. We can put everything in a tub and a few months later, we have compost. And that compost, we apply to coffee, yucca, granadilla, everything. So in that way, we don’t pollute the environment, we don’t need to spend money on chemicals, we are producing organic fertilizers. So we don’t need to use chemical fertilizers, which is bad. For example on the market, everything is organic. Dona Marleny is going from field to field, with the governors. One of the strongest associations is Amucan, because we have our technical assistants, which are professional. All the chickens that you see, a technical assistant will come to the fields to see how the chicken are. The eggs that we eat from, are judged by the best experts. So, why, they teach us to use all these organic fertilizers, we are feeding ourselves well, we come to the market so we can say to everyone who is buying our products, you can take it without worries, they are produced in good conditions.

**So currently, you use the pulp and other residues. If there is the possibility in a couple of years, that there will be a plant nearby. Would you be willing to provide your residues, or sell them?**

Oef, yes of course, Ave Maria. That would be the best. That is the best, I never saw this, but for me that would be the best.

**But now you use it for compost**

Yes, in the field yes, but if we can do this. For example for the village, if there would be a proposal for the village, how many people are throwing it away. It could all be used.

**What do you think of the idea, because now all the farmers do the process of beneficio in their own fields. Instead of selling the dried beans, sell the whole cherry and take that to one central location to do the process of beneficio.**

Well look, we produce specialty coffee, so that is also a good idea. But when you produce specialty coffee, it is very important to do the process of beneficio yourself. For example, I am going to do a honey, when I am doing that, I do a fermentation of 72 hours, to get coffee of 86 or 87 points. So, I need to get up at 1 o clock in the morning to move them. So I am the responsible person to reach this high point. Because I only have small quantities, I can do it here in my house. But when a person has more coffee, and has the opportunity to do that, yes I think that would be a good idea.

**Because now, how do you transport the coffee from your field to the association, or I don’t know where you sell it. How do you do that transport?**

Well, when we have the car, we can transport. But if not, we use the jeep that passes here 3 times a day. And for the association, there the coffee is sold already processed.

**And do you think it is possible to transport the pulp?**

Oeh, yes that is possible, of course. Imagine, if you can collect all the pulp and you can sell it. That is genius.

**Ok, let’s see. Finally, about these cards and aspects. If you could change or improve one, or a couple of these aspects. Which would that be?**

I would change a bit the free time and play, to dedicate more time to that.

**Ok, those were my questions. I don’t know if there is anything you want to tell more, or add to this?**

Well, I am going to tell a bit more about my products, my specialty coffee. We have coffee of very good quality and we have very healthy products. It has a lot of benefits. *(explains more about her coffee and beauty products).*

**And how much do you produce?**

Well currently not that much, because we need to renew the coffee trees. Sometimes, when I don’t have enough, I buy from Marleny, because she has very good quality coffee. And all the other products I use for my products are from my field, or I buy from women in the village, for example the honey.

**Well, thank you very much.**

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