**Interview transcript farmer #11 Villacarillo 8-11-2021**

**What is your age?**

53

**How long are you working in the olive sector?**

About 33 years

**Do you belong to this cooperative? (nstra sra del Rosario)**

Yes

**Do you have other work?**

No, I only work in the olive sector

**How much time do you spend on olive cultivation?**

Practically the whole year, about 6 hours a day. Normally all days, except when it rains. I work alone, so I always have work.

**What is your education level?**

Primary

**Do other family members help you with the olive cultivation?**

No

**Now I have some questions about your cultivation. How many hectares do you own?**

31 hectares, and about 1500 olive trees.

**What is your cultivation method, traditional?**

Yes traditional

**And how do you do the harvest, with vibrator?**

With small machines, vibrators.

**And the pruning, with chainsaw?**

Yes with a chainsaw

**And what do you do with the pruning rests, you chip them?**

Yes I chip them

**Why do you do it like that?**

It is the most economic and easiest option.

**How many employees do you have during the harvest?**

During harvest 7

**How much fertilizers do you use?**

I use mostly nitrogen and potassium, I put that in the irrigation and I also apply it on the leaves. I don’t use insecticides, I stopped doing that a few years ago and it is going well.

**Do you know the amount of fertilizers?**

I am not sure because we put it in the irrigation and I am part of an irrigation community. So I don’t know the exact amount. But it is nitrogen and potassium.

**What are the main challenges and problems here in the sector?**

The main challenges here is that we are with a lot of small farmers. So the harvest, all the work that needs to be done, costs a lot of money. So these agricultural enterprises, what they do is, they unite the smaller plots and work on that. I think that is the future. The future is to make cooperatives as well, to unite to make the work easier. Because I can stay working, but my daughter, I am not sure. There are companies that unite the plots. I am lucky that my plots are together. I have 27 hectares in one place and 3 in another place. I am lucky that I bought that land, I am the owner.

**Do you also see problems with sustainability?**

We are lucky that we have a good well here, we can have irrigation. But in areas where there is no access to a water source, they have more issues.

**Are there irrigation communities here?**

Yes there are, I am in a community as well. We have 50 hectares in the community and I have 20 hectares irrigated via this community. In total I am in 3 communities. I am in the big one, and in two small ones. And the small ones, maybe that is interesting for you, I am in an irrigation community of 20 something years old, we have better water and cheaper, in comparison to modern irrigation. We have ‘*sondeo*’, via a well, instead of via the river. But they are prohibiting that now, they only want irrigation via de river. Now, with what I have, I am paying 50-60 euros per olive tree. Image, because I have in total 2100 olive trees, times 60 euros, we are talking about 100.000 euros. Irrigation is a problem but I am thinking, the more we are advancing, the more problems we have.

And this, the pruning rests, I see as complicated. Because the pruning rests stay in the field, and that benefits the soil. And with the price to take it, I am not sure it will work. Also because it is now benefitting the soil, with organic material. Maybe the larger pieces of wood, that you can collect, but the smaller parts that are now chipped, I am not sure. A lot of companies are trying to use it to make compost or something, but because they are not paying that much, it is not working. And you are taking organic material out of the field, that also can be used for the soil. What is chipped now in the field, it will be very difficult to take that, I see it as very complicated. The wood yes.

**It could be that the farmer will be compensated economically and that you will also receive something in return, like compost, that can benefit the soil.**

If it is processed here and then is used in ships, I see it as complicated. I think the more we advance, we make things worse. That is my opinion.

**The idea is that by taking these pruning rests and also alperujo, you can make different products with high added value, such as biofuel and other products, to make this economically viable.**

I wouldn’t take any ecological product that is made in America, all this transport. If it is made here, than yes. All these developments, I don’t know.

**What improvements could be made in the sector according to you?**

The future is to mechanize it, 100%. Otherwise we don’t have future. My plot, in 5 years, or 10 years I have to be mechanized. I think I need to replace the olive trees and mechanize.

I don’t want my children to be painter or olive farmer, everybody wants their children to study. But then we have a problem. We have to mechanize, if I will leave this plot for my daughter, I need to replace the trees and mechanize, and that a company will take care of all the work. Than my daughter only needs to collect the money that is generated from that plot. I think if I will leave my plot like this, I don’t think my daughter will earn any money, or very little. It is not profitable. For me it is different, I am here all year, I do the work myself. Or my daughter needs to marry someone and they need to live the way I am living, or I have to mechanize 100%. I think the harvest is the most expensive part.

**With respect to this project, would you be interested to collect and sell your pruning rests?**

Only if they are able to give a very high price. And if they will unite the plots, but I don’t think they will pay. I don’t think they will be able to do it. They can take it, also the wood. Well the wood I am using, I have a small heater and I use the wood to heat my house. I have free calefaction. So if I am selling that, then I need to earn something and pay for other heating. It should be profitable. Everybody does it like that here.

**It is difficult to say maybe, but how much volume of pruning rests do you generate?**

I cut every year half of my plot. My olive trees are about 30 years old, so I don’t have that much pruning rests. About 20.000 kilo, something like that.

I think it is complicated, these pruning rests. There are a lot of people that are using the wood for their own heating.

**What do you think the benefits could be, to sell the pruning rests? For example, employment opportunities, economic benefits, sustainability**

Well it will always generate employment

**And how do you see the sustainability?**

I think that will be the same

**What is preventing you now from selling it? For example infrastructure**

We don’t have infrastructure now, and no machinery, the machinery that we use now is very simple. The machine to chip and a tractor. It is not complicated.

And they tried it already, to take the pruning rests and make compost. But it didn’t work, because you are taking the nutrients out.

**Would you be open to change your agricultural practices, for example towards ecological production, or having cover crops?**

The ecological areas are not very productive, then it might be profitable to have ecological production. I have good production, so it depends per area if people are interested. Every area have different practices. Here in this area, I don’t see ecological production, because we have a very productive area here.

**What assistance would you need in your practices?**

I don’t know, maybe help with irrigation, because it is raining less and less. Because it is also expensive.

The prices, the costs are rising. I remember that when I was 15 years old they paid for 1 kilos of olives 20 ‘dura’. Now they are paying 60-70 cents per kilo, so that is 40 years ago. Before, a person with 5 hectares could live from it. Now that is not possible. Now you need 25-30 hectares to live.

**To finalize this part, on a scale of 1-10, how much interest do you have to participate in this project?**

You can put a 6

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

Put a s 6 as well.

**Ok, now I am going to show you some cards. They are interested in the wellbeing of the olive farmers. They want to know what is important for you in your life. For example, health, political participation, security.**

Now it is getting more complicated

**This is more about your opinion. I first have some questions, these are more personal. If you would earn more money, how would you spend that?**

I would like to travel more

**Would you like your children to work in the olive sector?**

I would like it, that they will continue with this.

**Do you have enough time to rest, for example during the harvest?**

If you are physically well, the work is not that hard. You have to worry a bit about the machines and your workers, but it is not that hard.

**If you would have more free time, what would you do?**

I would like to travel more

**Do you have problems with your health or economically?**

No, and also not economically.

**Do you miss any public service here?**

No, if I need anything, I can go to Ubeda for example. So it is good here

**Do you have good relations with your family and friends?**

Yes, that is the best here. We have a very big group of friends, well in different places. I am also here in the board of the cooperative, I am vocal. So here I also have good relationships. We are close to each other.

**Would you like to change anything in that respect?**

No

**Did anything change in your surroundings?**

No, maybe the road here. I saw three phases, the landscape changed a bit here. But practically, here the things don’t really change, they stay the way they are.

**Do you use your talents in your work?**

Yes, but agriculture is very simple, especially the olive. It is very simple, I do all the things, I know how to do the pruning, everything. And I think I take good care of my plot.

**What dreams do you have in your life, are there things you would like to achieve?**

I don’t know

**If you could change anything in your life, what would that be?**

Little, I am very happy, in my village, with my family and friends.

**Now I will explain the cards. Could you read the cards, you can take your time, and choose 3 or 4 aspects that are most important to you**

Well I can see it already, health is really important, that is the first thing we need.

Well they are all important, these are the main aspects you need in life.

This one, security, because we have children.

**Could you explain why you chose these cards?**

Mental health, if we don’t have that, we are nothing. And physical health as well. If I cannot do the things I like, for example if I can’t drive anymore, which is really important to me, then poh.

And security is very important because if you cannot go to places in tranquillity, because I like to travel a lot. Here we don’t have that problem, but I see the whole of Spain that and the world, that security is becoming more important.

And care for the environment, one or the other way, but I think we need to take care of it.

**Cedric: and what do you need to have this, what do you need to be healthy or to be safe?**

**Alfonso: How is this in your life now, these aspects, are you healthy for example?**

I take care of myself very well, in my food, my health physical, I am doing good. Taking care of the environment, well I separate my waste and use the products to the maximum. What is in my hands, I am doing.

Security for me is also very important, that you can go out, and that your children are out and they are safe. That is what I am worried about.

**Alfonso: What is lacking for you, from these cards?**

I don’t know. I have all of this, not a 10 for everything, but I do have it. Health I have, public participation I have, I like my work, I have free time as well. Mobility as well. I don’t know.

**Alfonso: So to summarize, you could say that you are doing well, that you are satisfied?**

Yes

**Cedric: but you would like to travel more, right?**

**Alfonso: yes, so he is saying that you would like to travel more, but maybe you are already travelling a little bit?**

Yes, sometimes I feel afraid to go to another country. So sometimes I think I like to go travelling, but then just before I am doing it and I pack my suitcase, I am afraid. I did 5-6 trips in airplane, and I am afraid. What I like to do is take my car and go to a place that I don’t know. But that is limited, here in Spain. I know all of Andalusia, all the towns, I go during the weekend. I like that. But it is limited. Well I like to go abroad, I like to go to Madeira, I don’t know if I will be able to.

**Cedric: so in a project like ours, is it important to him to have influence (related to self-determination)?**

**Alfonso: he is asking, about these cards (self-determination and public participation) are these important for the project, for the functioning of the project?**

For example, my objective is, it is not my preoccupation, what you are working on. I am sorry, but it is not my preoccupation.

But everyone should participate, I don’t know.

To me this is a bit strange, this project

**Alfonso: they are just starting the project and they need to find out a lot of variables first, how much biomass is available, what people are doing with it, there are a lot of varieties, but they are just starting.**

Maybe it has future, if it will be centralized, than it might me more profitable. But here, going from owner to owner on all these small plots, I don’t think that will be possible.

**Alfonso: maybe apart from the pruning rests, it could be a good idea to use alperujo, that the orujera also extracts other products, that could be a good option.**

Yes, that could be a good option. But the pruning rests, I don’t know. The wood maybe yes, we use it for our houses, but we also always have some wood left. That you could collect for example here at the cooperative. That I could see happening, but the other rests in the field, I don’t know. I don’t think they will pay a lot of money for that.

I studied a bit energy, I looked as nuclear energy. We need to put all efforts in the development of nuclear energy. All other things, like biomass, are contaminating. And nuclear not. According to me, it could be clean energy.

And taking these branches out of the field, I don’t think that is a good idea, because that is organic material for the soil. Also the wood we use for our heating, that is luxury. To have that wood to heat our house is a luxury.

The olive stone maybe yes, they are producing electricity from it, nearby. But that is contaminating as well he.

**Alfonso: these were all the questions we wanted to ask**

You are welcome. Well, maybe I am a bit negative, but sometimes the negative is positive. I think more people here in this area will think the same as I do.