**BW1 - Interview bush worker CCF, male, Otjiwarongo - 31-1-2023**

I1

**So to start off, can you tell me what you precisely do? What kind of work you do?**

P1

I'm working like the operator extruder.

I1

**Operator extruder. And from the trees or.**

P1

Yeah, from the chips like chips it come from the bush. And they come into the Hemmamere from the Hemmamere they come through in the extruder so we can make the proacid bush product

I1

**Oh those are like the logs**

P1

Logs. Yeah. This is weak quality it's the cheapest one.

I1

**Ah yeah. And so you operate the** machine?

P1

Yeah. I operate the machine yeah.

I1

**Ah, yeah. And what do you precisely have to do? Do you just have to check or**

P1

Yeah to control everything, to put the new school or to set up the heater bells. You can see you can look where the blocks are, how it looks like. And then you can adjust the temperature or everything.

I1

**And do you like your job?**

P1

Yes. I like the job because I’m worked here 20 years.

I1

**You're working here 20 years. You don't look like that. 20 years for the Cheetah Conservation Fund.**

P1

Yes, yeah.

I1

**And this has this always been your job or have you had different jobs?**

P1

Yeah, I had the different job at the ShopRite Checkers had to leave that and to come here. In 2003.

I1

**2003 Yeah, that's a long time. And do you live on the conservation or where do you? Do you live in Otjiwarongo?**

P1

Yeah, I live in Otjiwarongo.

I1

**And does your family also come from there?**

P1

There, yeah, yes.

I1

**OK, nice. So you come in then?**

P1

Yeah. In the port in the north ...

I1

**And do you also have a farm there or?**

P1

At the north, yeah.

I1

**So how often do you go back north?**

P1

Like December, we were the last day

I1

**Ah, so you've just been.**

P1

Yes.

I1

**How was the crop?**

P1

Ah it is OK! The planding, mahangu, maizes...

I1

**Do you think it's going to be a good year with the rain?**

P1

Yes. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

I1

**Yeah, and working here. Do you think- What do you like the most about working here, at the [name], what do you like the most about working here?**

P1

Oh, like? First when I go into the [name] so, it was like the cheetah to run and to see how can to translate the cheetah and everything.

I1

**Do you have a like a full time contract like?**

P1

Contracts..?

I1

**Yeah, like you're always employed, yeah.**

P1

Yeah, we are yeah. We're saying that the contract. We had that one and everybody have this contract and you can reach through if you you're not understand it, yeah.

I1

**So are you full time or?**

P1

Yes, full time.

I1

**Especially if you have been working here for 20 years eh?**

P1

Yeah, yes, yeah. Full time.

I1

**And do you belong to like a union or?**

P1

I don't know what you're talking about.

I1

**You don't need it or. Because the working conditions are good, yeah. So how does your?**

P1

Yeah, but why did you tell me? I don't have that.

I1

**OK, so how does your day-to-day look like? What time do you leave for work?**

P1

On today? I started 7 o’clock. And we are already producing the blocks. We have it now we make now so 3... Yeah two terms today!

I1

**Two terms? That's a lot eh?**

P1

From 7 o’clock ... 11 o’clock

I1

**And when are your breaks?**

P1

I'm going to the break from 12:00 o'clock. And the other one so 1:00 o'clock because we cannot set up the meeting.

I1

**OK, so it's continuous.**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

I1

**The wages do you get? You think you can pay everything? All the food? Is it all good? Or would you like better wages?**

P1

Oh yes. Money is problem, haha.

I1

**Haha, always eh?**

P1

Yeah but it's good. Can buy a car...

I1

**You got a car?**

P1

Yeah.

I1

**Good, good. And so you do your wife and children live in Otjiwarongo?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

I1

**How many children do you have?**

P1

Five.

I1.

**Oh phew, that's a lot. How, how old?**

P1

Now the first one she gets nineteen years. The second's sixteen, the other's thirteen. The last one is five months.

I1

**Ah, so baby, yeah. So you're very tired eh?**

P1

Yeah.

I1

**When you go up north farming, do you take back all the food for Otjiwarongo or does your family (..) there?**

P1

Yeah, some, some of them there. They are live there, the north, and some of them live in Otjiwarongo, have schooling here.

I1

**And is the school close?**

P1

Yeah, yeah.

I1

**So that's good... Sorry, this is my first time doing an interview by myself. Yeah, I'm a student. And up north, you also have the same problem with the bush?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Same the same.

I1

**But you're not allowed to harvest eh?**

P1

Because yeah, between Ondangwa and Unseelie is a lot of bush. The same.

I1

**Do you harvest it or?**

P1

And harvesting in order to proofing.

I1

**For what?**

P1

You have to... Yeah, to remove the bush in order to proofing to make the sand loosen and so can put in the socks put in the seeds.

I1

**Yeah, So you do the bush harvesting for your field. And do you have cattle?**

P1

Yeah I have.

I1

**So do you see that there's problem for grazing with the bush?**

P1

Ah no. It's not a problem. It's not a big problem. It's so small area you cannot make the big area so that one the small that one can fit to put food. Another one can leave it.

I1

**So the cattle just go out.**

P1

Go out, yeah, yes.

I1

**Ah OK and do you think the bush encroachments, did it use to be like that when you were young all the bushes? Or was it like open Savannah?**

P1

Yeah, some... Yeah, because it's not the same. You can find some places, you can find the Bush, it's close close close. And other places you can find the Savannah.

I1

**And if you, if you think it's bad, if, say they managed to chop nearly all of the bushes and it goes back to Savannah. Do you think that's a good thing or a bad thing?**

P1

Yeah, that's like, yeah, it's easier for there to put because so that cheetah can happy also.

I1

**Do you have cheetahs up north?**

P1

No, no, there isn't. Only the cattle. (…) You can move so free.

I1

**And if, up north, would you also chop it like here?**

P1

Ah no. (…)

I1

**OK, but not the machines.**

P1

Not machines, no.

I1

**But if you could have like the same projects up north would the community also want them you think?**

P1

Like this?

I1

**Yeah because we've been told that the communal farmers are not allowed to make charcoal and.**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. We can, we have the tools or the equipment of that, yeah. We can too.

I1

**Yeah, but you don't do it now eh?**

P1

Now we don't do this. Yeah, yeah.

I1

**Yeah, I wanted to show you this. \*shows something\***   
**One more question. So what do you think is the most challenging about the bush harvesting?**

P1

Come again?

I1

**The biggest problem with the bush harvesting like terms of equipment or man power or...**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, the equipment yeah.

I1

**Cause how often do you need to replace the.. Does the equipment break a lot?**

P1

Yeah, yeah.

I1

**And are you able to fix it or?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, we can fix it, but sometimes maybe there's that too. That thing that is broken, it takes a long place to come here in Namibia. Can wait maybe two months or three months. England or other countries.

I1

**So what happens then?**

P1

Because that material it's not come from Namibia, it comes from another ranch.

I1

**Do you have spare parts or no?**

P1

Yeah, with airport or with boat.

I1

**OK, but what happens if production stops?**

P1

Yeah, sometimes, but now. Now we have three.. number 1 is cheaper. But the cheapest in machine that will make the chips like that. When that chip is broken, the whole factory is not standing. Now we have no we have no three chips. The one work we can use another one. While we are making like once a good like that?

I1

**Is the cheaper the one that breaks the most?**

P1

Yeah, that's most yeah.(…)

I1

**and for operating the equipment, did you have to do like a training?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Have a training.

I1

**How often do you have the trainings?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, you cannot use something like a fail you can use only the wood, the stock. If you can leave it you cannot go inside. That's when you use that something like the steel. It will be broken the cheaper. Because that 's steel. Still, you cannot use the steel for that when you're working with the cheap.

I1

**OK just the wood.**

P1

You can cut the wood.

I1

**And do you get like safety trainings?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You can wear everything, the cocos, the pooch, kravis...

I1

**Do you like wearing it or like, prefer not to?**

P1

Yeah, like when I use the machine, I can wear everything.

I1

**Yeah, yeah, yeah.**

P1

But now, when working here with extruder machine I wear just a mask.

I1

**OK, so you don't have to wear the (..)?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Just a year. There is no problem. Like they are another chip.

I1

**Yeah, cause have there been accidents?**

P1

But yeah.

I1

**No accidents, OK? How often do you have the training or just one time?**

P1

I know I every year, every year. Yeah, yeah. We have ''oh, what is the problem now? We need to help to do that. Don't do that''.

I1

**Is that because of the certification?**

P1

Yeah.

I1

**All right. And do you get some like a bonus if you produce more or is it just hourly wage?**

P1

No bonus. Yeah, at the beginning, what we had the bonus production when we made so lot of tones so that we can give if I don't give something up 200 or 300..

I1

**And if there's something you could improve. What would make your life better when you're working or yeah.**

P1

\*thinking\*

I1

**It's a hard question, you don't need to. OK and, for lunch, do you bring your own lunch or you get...?**

P1

Yeah, yeah, we get. $900.00 for for food and then you can buy yourself with that money. Yeah. Everybody get that 900 when they get salary and with that 900 buy food.

I1

**So what do you like to have for lunch? What do you eat for lunch?**

P1

Maybe buy bread or meat. Depend for yourself, yeah. Maybe I like a milk with that 900. Or like that yeah.

I1

**OK, that's good. So yeah, and how many people are you working with?**

P1

Now I'm having, sixteen here. Not including the cheaper, they are separate. Because they are in a Bush now, they are not here.

I1

**Do you think you have a better job than the coppers?**

P1

Yes, better.

I1

**Yeah, yeah, it's too hard, hard work the coppers. I just wanted to show you this. So this is the idea what may be in the future. It's research. So all talk, talk, talk. So here, this would be the land, the forest, and it will come into the biorefinery. And then the output would be like the biodiesel for to run the ships, and like a biochar and then... So the idea is that we do it in sustainable and inclusive way and also like give back to the communities. So what would you think would be something would really benefit like the community if we set up something like this?**

P1

That's because that seems like that something like that cycling.

I1

**Yeah. So yeah. So the recycling. So have you heard of biochar? So the idea is that the biochar might be recycled into the community to give, like, for make the community land more fertile. Yeah, I mean. So yeah, they say the biochar, maybe soil or energy. So would you see, do you think they would like if we wanted to build a factory now, what do you think would be the biggest problems? Because we need the, we need the coppers, we need the people who run the machines because it's a yeah, it's a. It's a new technology, so like it's a bit complicated. So what do you think would be the challenge?**

P1

I say copper.

I1

**Yeah, cause why? Why the copper?**

P1

Yeah, because we need to stay with the like, that's what's the name of that?

I1

**The grass or the?**

P1

The grass and the (..) And the tree also. You cannot cut everything you know. OK, you have to leave some.

I1

**And what, do you think the copper cause, do a lot of people not want to work in the copper job. Or just cause it's hard?**

P1

They are working, but is very hard to do work to cop with their hands, it's very hard.

I1

**But here they are copping with machines now?**

P1

Yeah but machine, it's a bit heavy. But the problem when I'm using a machine and now we don't have a job opportunity to give to the person. Because the machine we are working with one person. But when we cop with the hand, maybe we can take some ten or five people so that you can give job to another one.

I1

**Yeah, because there's a lot of people without jobs. The youth eh?**

P1

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

I1

**So do you think it would be better to employ more people to cop? So we have more jobs?**

P1

Yeah, we have more jobs and to help each other.

I1

**Because we've heard from some people, they said. ''Oh no. No copping, no. No, way too hard.'' So do you think, do you think you'll be able to find enough people to cop?**

P1

Yeah, have to find. Like now we have maybe. So here we have six guys. And the cheaper we handle four guys and the other one we had, six.. like that like that. Cannot use only the machine.

I1

**And like if we because we want, ideally we would have the community also selling the biomass. How people say because the government says no, they're not allowed to do that. Do you think there would be a problem if? What would be the challenges if you tried to get the community involved, the communal farmers?**

P1

Yeah, I think so, yeah.

I1

**Or do you think it would be a good idea to get the communal farmers involved in selling the biomass to the to the buyer refinery or do you think it won't work?**

P1

Maybe it won't work.

I1

**Won't work. Yeah, why not?**

P1

Haha. ehm.

I1

**So you've been working here for 20 years, right? So you have you have you seen like the.. What other changes have you seen, like the effect of the copping has had on the landscape? Do you think it's like a positive effect or negative?**

P1

I'll have to make a positive effect

I1

**Because there are more cheetahs around or?**

P1

Yes more cheetah.

I1

**And more cattle or?**

P1

(…) Because when I'm cutting, we are not cutting in the field just on the fence in the fence log so that they can run.

I1

**Do you think you'll ever be able to cop everything or can? OK, I'm trying to think if I've got any more. And yeah, so. So up north, you don't have as much problems with the..**

P1

No

I1

**No. And you have enough water and rainfall or sometimes not.**

P1

Yeah, we have here for some of them is for rainfall and this is for dealing from the ground

I1

**And how does your family house look like there?**

P1

They are looking nice.

I1

**Do you have electricity and stuff?**

P1

Yeah we have.

I1

**That's good. Do other people have electricity or not?**

P1

And not all the people. Some people, yeah. It's very expensive to... Just to bring that transform.

I1

**OK, so does your whole village have electricity?**

P1

Yeah

I1

**And the other villages not, maybe.**

P1

Yeah not maybe. Of in the nirad maybe only so. Maybe 20 houses that can electricity. (..) Transform your house. Course will be thirty thousand, forty thousand just. According to the kilometer from.

I1

**So it's very expensive yeah, so are you, are you in Ovamboland or?**

P1

Yeah I’m in Ovamboland yeah.

I1

**All right. And what happens? Because I heard there was like three years ago there was a drought like, no rain.**

P1

Yeah.

I1

**Do you still have enough water to grow crops?**

P1

We have. Trying to get water. But we don't have enough water when the raining. It's not raining when the rain is not raining. And then just only the water for animal. Just to make a hole from the soil to get that water for animals.

I1

**So no crops.**

P1

Ah no crops.

I1

**Where do you get your food from then?**

P1

Yeah, now you have to just to buy like rice, macaroni or what. Of course, nothing to do.

I1

**OK haha so where are your vegetables then, do you buy the vegetables?**

P1

Yeah can buy.

I1

**Thank you. I don't think I have anymore questions. Do you have any questions for me? Thank you for your time. Thank you. I'll let you get back to work. Thank you.**