**F22CF - Interview farmer #22, male, coffee, Santa Rosa - 22-7-2022**

**Thank you very much for your time, and I would like to confirm that you agree to do this interview, and you know that it is anonymous, but we will use this information.**

Ok, exactly.

**You can start with a short personal introduction. Who are you...**

How do I tell you? Like in a presentation?

**Yes**.

My name is [name]. I live here in Santa Rosa de Cabal. It turns out that Santa Rosa is 15 to 20 minutes from here, from the village of *[place]*. I have been a farmer for twenty years. It has gone very well for me with coffee. I am working with special coffee, and I handle it well. I have had several contests that I have competed in, and I have also won a prize with coffee. I still got a very good coffee, and then... The attitude I have is to get ahead, getting some coffees, also having some good contacts that help us to sell the coffee, to have better prices, and to have more successful coffee sells because, supposedly here, coffee... We, those of us who work with specialty coffees, don't have a guaranteed business. Trade is very slow, the committee told us. The committee sell it as washed coffee, but special coffees still don't have much support in the Federation and all that. We do not have. So, it's up to us to look for the seller in the areas where we are going to produce. Would you like an organization from another country to help us to see how we can get coffee for another country? It would be very good, that through an association we have support because through the committee, we don't have it. As specialty coffee. I am going to make things clear, as a specialty coffee, we do not have the support. We have the support as washed coffees and all that, but special coffees, as we have been working right now, we don't have it. Because they don't have buyers for that coffee. So, that's where our attitude stops us from working and getting a special coffee and all that, they take it from us that way because they see us work hard, and they don't see the market. I wish they would support us to sell the coffee that we produce daily. We would put more confidence in it, and we would get much more coffee because thank God we have the will, and we have everything to get it, but they don't help us.

**How old are you?**

I am 52 years old.

**Are you working on the coffee production for 20 years now?**

I have been working for about 40 years. Well, I have been working with my dad since I was 12 years old because my dad was a coffee grower all his life in Tolima, and then there we learned, from a very young age, to handle coffee, to collect it, to work it, to dry it, everything. Therefore, we have grown up, and each one of us has already looked for our own way of living. And we already had the property, and we have been coffee growers for all our lives thanks to that.

**Do you live in the town and have a property, or do you live on the property?**

I live on the property, yes, in *La Mariana*. Well, in the town it is not worth it leaving in the morning and coming then back.

**Who do you live with?**

I live with my wife because, well, my children, I only have three children who already studied and left. One is in Bogotá, the other is here in Pereira... And the other two were in Pereira, and I live alone with my wife there on the property, and workers when I need help, I have to get workers to help me.

**Approximately how many hectares do you have?**

I have about four hectares, there are seven little blocks.

**Therefore, you have four hectares. Is everything coffee, or does it also have other things?**

I have a hectare of pasture somewhere, for cattle. I like to have the little animals all day in the grass.

**Is this also for your consumption or do you also sell milk, cheese...?**

It is that then, when they like it, so I tell them, well, it is sold, and if not, for consumption. This is how we keep the crop arranged, especially for consumption.

**Who do you work with on your property?**

Well, now I work with a worker and the boy is going to leave because I'll explain to you, one begins to suffer from illness problems, so I can keep a worker there who is helping me, and me, and my wife. We are the three.

**Does your wife also work on the property?**

Yeah, she works on the property, and she is a housewife and everything. She cooks.

**During the harvest, do you hire more people?**

More workers. Yes, when there the coffee production increases, you have to hire some technicians, six, seven collectors, three... Depending on the amount there is, you also hire personnel.

**How do you find those people?**

You go out to town, and perhaps people come to the main square, looking for jobs. Thus, you choose the ones that work for you. Because you have to select.

**Can you describe a day? Your activities on a normal day? At what time do you get up, what do you do...**

In a normal workday, we get up. At 5:30 in the morning we are already up, 6 in the morning having a snack and leaving for work. Arrive at 8 in the morning for breakfast and go back to work, and at 12 o'clock go out again for lunch and then continue collecting coffee, or fertilizing, or whatever work it is, and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon to go out. That is the pattern we have here to be able to work the field.

**How many days a week do you work?**

That depends on the things one has in the harvest. So, when there is the coffee harvest to collect, then one works until Saturday, the six days. Six days. If there is not much, if it is not very good, then five days, until Friday.

**Depends...**

Depending on the thing. There has to be work. I work for all six days, or five days.

**What do you enjoy about your activities?**

One enjoys the activities, they are the ones that one carries out on the property, working. The tranquility that one has on the property. Because in the town, everything is very complicated, while on the property you worked... Yes, you were late, at home late you relax. There is no rush, there is nothing, everything is calm. The tranquility that you feel on the property. The pure air. In the city they don't have clean air, while here zero pollution.

**Are there also things you don't like or would like to change?**

What would I like to change?

**Yes**.

Well, what can I tell you... Well, just like changing, changing... Well, clearly that there be a change, a little more from the governments to the countryside. The support to the field has been very little. It is more, towards the town, but to the field… It has us very abandoned. They don't help us much. Many times, we have to perform manual work on the property. Manual work because the government gives some credits to the bank, to lend to us, to give us support. But if you are going to get credit, it turns out that, reading it, the bank is trying to get more rather than helping you. Because the bank does not live without one. That if you don't pay, they take away your land. Do you see it? The bank never wants to support it and get it forward, the bank lives at one's expense, to see what it takes away from one.

**And what kind of help would you like to receive?**

Well, clearly aid for one to sustain more the property, the coffee, everything. In fertilizers, in inputs, because they are very costly. And they don't give us any support. At least, here, the National Federation of Coffee Growers is trying to find how they give us back the cents from the dollar that they take from us, but support like this, that they tell you that they are going to give you, we have no help. To me, at least, since I have been here for many years, they haven't given me any help at all, not even a sack of fertilizer, nothing. So, one sees that we are very helpless. Slowly forsaken the field, and I ask for help, that I have many expenses as well. I ask the entire government, all those who listen, to care about the countryside. Those of us who are attached to the idea that ​​the field is the mean that brings food to the town. Because if in ten years, if in ten years you don't lay a foundation for it, you're going to see a war because many people cannot work. Because the guys, they are all going to the village. Young people, all move to the village, and we old people can no longer work, so, in about ten years, we are no longer good for anything, we sit down, and we are no longer useful at all, and the guys don't want to be here. So, what is the town going to live on if the countryside is going to run out? Thus, a support. That there is worldwide support because that is not only in Colombia, but worldwide. What is happening. There is going to be a famine due to so much climate damage, and everything that has happened. Look at how Spain is, there is all that with the fires, and everything, there they have run out of water. Lacking water, and here we have everything. So, you have to look at all that, and the governments don't look. They, in power, fight with each other, and give everything away for themselves, and the poor and the farmer, who suffers. So, in those things we are doing very badly, the truth is that we are doing very badly. I see it like this. It is that one, in the field, lives helpless. Undoubtedly. If you got your portion for breakfast, fine, if not, you are going to leave, and no one is going to tell you: “Did you have breakfast? Did you not have breakfast?” no one asks you anything because no one is interested. Each one occupied in their things, and the field, alone. So, yes, a request like this would be very good, if it were worldwide because not only this country is in this. It is all the countries that have that food shortage and everything. Therefore, we would like them to support us. Everyone. That between countries and everything support each other, and that they turn their eyes to the countryside, which is what we need. The countryside because what we want is that, if I stop coming, or leave the property, or sell the property, and come here to the village, I come to go hungry, and to be another burden in the town without producing anything. On the other hand, on a property, one... You see, that's what the government should do, support us on the property. Having people on the property so that there is food, both for someone who is on the property and for those who are in a village, who are doing other jobs. So, that is what I told you.

**You have said that your children are studying, they are in town. Aren’t they interested in working in the field?**

They... I tell them because many times they want to work in the field. But the things that one hast to do to sustain the property are very hard. And well, they are already looking for ways to earn money. Hence, they start working in a company, and they move away. They don't want to work on the field because they don't want to live there. Because I have the small property, but it gives me the money for myself. And to get some extra money extra to help them is very tight for me. But if there was an aid, a government that gave aid to support the countryside, I think they would go back there because they see the need that the village do not produce anything. The village doesn't produce anything for you, so the only thing it produces is famine and... As I said, and wickedness. There is wickedness in the village. Because all the boys who come and don't want to work, are with vice, drugs, and all that, and they already do damage. So, that's what it is not appropriate. And there is another little thing, that the governments are destroying the countryside. That sounds harsh, but it is the reality. It is that they don't want boys under 18 to work in the fields, prohibiting all kinds of work, and… I raised my three children, studying, on the property. Working on the property and studying. And today, they are three guys who are studying, and they are working in the village, but thank God they are working on what they are working on because I taught them from a very young age. On the other hand, many people say no: "It's that my child cannot work, that I cannot let him." So, he will be up and down, with a cell phone, all day doing disrupting things and investing in vices. Because they are alone doing nothing, one cannot reprimand them. However, if you take your children from a young age, you have been teaching them in the fields, let them look, let them work, let them have their studies. They have their studies, and what do they do? I gave them their studies; I gave them the freedom to go out whenever they wanted. Go out, walk and all that. But when it was their turn to work on the property, it was the time to do so. And they had to work, and they helped me. Today, who are they? Three guys, thank God, upright, working honestly. No one can criticize them. Thus, I took my pride with me because I taught them. I didn't bring them the idea of ​​the government, that several times the police told us that we cannot hit them, that we cannot put them to work, that it was a punishment. For me, it is not a punishment. For me, it was teaching them, straightening them out, and teaching them to work properly. And today they are grateful, and I am grateful for what I did.

**How did you learn to work in the field? In that way, with your parents?**

Dad. Dad taught us all; dad raised all ten of us. All ten, we all work honestly, and no one has a vice. That he picked up a vice, that this... Nothing, nothing. Everyone is doing well, we all have properties, and we all get up straight, thank God.

**Did you study? Which kind of education?**

I studied up to fifth grade. Fifth year of primary school, and as I say, I didn't like studying for the sheer reason that one saw the opportunity of working in the fields. So, one already liked money, he left his studies to go to work and look for money. But thank God, in the long term, I don't regret it because the studies, today, there are many people who have a little study, and they are not doing anything. It is useless for them. I learned how to work, and so that, with those small studies that I have, I get myself ahead. And get ahead, and I am fine. I feel happy with the studies I have.

**And now are you part of the association here?**

In *[name]*.

**Also part of the committee?**

Yes, from the committee of the Department, local, and everything.

**Since when have you been a member of the association?**

I have been a member for four years.

**Why did you become a member?**

Because I was... As I say, I saw the need to improve the quality of the coffee. The idea of ​​coffee and all this. So, I realized that there was an option for *[name]*, that it was working well and, so I became a member. And thank God. I have to thank *[name]* because it was good to me, and today I already have a lot of recognition to sell my coffee. I sell in Pereira, around here, for one and the other, they call me. Last week, or a month ago, a lady went to Germany, and she bought me seven pounds of coffee, to take there. And this week, and she told me, they drank it all, and they needed more coffee to take there. My coffee is very good.

**What is the money you receive? How is the money you receive now?**

Well, now with coffee I'm earning… Well, 50,000 pesos per *arroba*, based on weight, of what the cooperative pays.

**How much?**

50,000 pesos per arroba.

**50,000.**

Yes, around 50,000 pesos per *arroba*, based on weight, in special coffee, which I produce. So, it works for me because to sell there to the cooperatives, they buy it very cheaply, so I select it, I […] and everything. And it is being sold well.

**How much is your production per year?**

The production... That depends on the weather. The weather, everything... Because with this weather, we have had two years of pure winter, and it has not worked out. So, it has little production. But the production, depending. When the weather is good and everything, a production of about 2,000 kilos up to 3,000 kilos per year.

**Does your income depend 100% on coffee, for your system?**

Yes.

**Or do you also have other sources of income?**

No, just the coffee. Well, cattle are very little. I have little, so the profits are few. So, coffee and nothing else to sustain myself. Yes, it is enough because as one works the property oneself, then there are remaining for one. Because if you have to pay everything, you have nothing left. The truth is that there is nothing left, but as I work it and everything, then I put effort into it, then I have more left to survive. Coffee is enough for one to survive, to live, and to survive through time.

**Do you think you can live well on that income?**

Well, what can I tell you... Well, not very well because you know that there is a lot of need, and there are many things, and everything is expensive, everything as it is now. Well, let’s say that very well no, but yes, thank God, we survive. You must survive.

**If you could increase your income, how would you spend it?**

Well, what can I tell you... on that, well, to spend it on... To maintain the property, and on drugs, for one, to treat the body. Because one also lives sick, and you have to put what would be yours, what you are going to earn. Many times, one goes into drugs and all because there comes a time that you have to get into it.

**So, you participate in the association, and you have said before that specialty coffees are more difficult to sell.**

Yes, riskier in terms of selling it. There you have to be very lucky to be able to sell because we don't have a guaranteed specialty coffee trade, it is very slow, the sale and everything. There are buyers.

**Are there times when you cannot sell it?**

There are times when it cannot be sold because there is no one who needs it.

**Is all your coffee specialty coffee?**

No, I have a part of special coffee, and another part to sell to the cooperative. I cannot have all specialty coffee because it cannot be sold. There is no market. So, it's up to me to wait.

**How is your house on the property? Do you have minimum services?**

Yes, it has light, water. The house is good to live. I have everything well to live.

**Do you have internet there too?**

No. Internet, only what is on the cell phone. Through the cell phone, but that gives a very weak signal, and then it does not reach.

**How is the road to communicate?**

Road is not very good because it has good parts, and some bad parts. It is regular.

**What ways of transport do you use?**

Car.

**Also, to transport the coffee? Or how do you do it?**

Yes.

**Do you feel safe in the community where you live?**

Yes. There is a nice order. We live well on the village, yes. It is rather healthy, very good.

**How important is the environment to you?**

Important. The best thing in life is the environment, yes because without water... You know that without water you cannot live, and it is good to have, in some spring waters... At least I have it there on the property, and for where there is the highway, paths, fences, I put many sticks. I put small tree sticks in it, and so on to support it, and taking care of the land and everything. I like it a lot. I like it a lot.

**Do you use chemical fertilizers on your property?**

Yes, fertilizers.

**And pesticides?**

Chemical fertilizers yes, no fertilizers... I don't use chemical poisons, like for pests and everything.

**Not that.**

No, I do not use them. I don't fumigate my coffee crops. Fertilizer, just fertilizer. Fertilizer, just fertilizer, but I cannot put chemicals in the coffee because you can feed a fresh part that comes from 1850. Then, the plague does not bother much anymore.

**What varieties do you have on your property?**

I have *Castillo* variety, *Colombia* variety, and *Arabica*, such. Arabic is very good.

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

How?

**What dreams do you have? What would you like to achieve?**

My dream is there on the little property, it's like setting it up in tourism. I have a very good there, I have a very good part for tourism. So, the dream, with the association. One of us, well, more than one of us, is in an association about setting up the... As tourism, several properties. So, we even have an association called *[name]*, we already have them with beds and everything, there is like an association. Well, and we are struggling. The years that we have spent with the pandemic, kept us all still, but we do want to continue. And it is my dream, to put the properties as tourism.

**So that tourists can also sleep on the property and experience what it is like?**

Yes. Besides, to know the history of coffee, the ecological trails. There is a ravine that is close to a beautiful waterfall. Everything, trying with all that. Therefore, if I cannot do it because I usually work on my own, I tell my children to help me. They might not want to, no. So, they have us tight. But that is a dream of mine that I tell them. Yesterday I was doing little things, making a little cabin, picking things up by myself. My dream is that, setting it up.

**How is your physical health? You said that you had some problems.**

Clearly, I have a little issue with the column. I am having a problem with my spine. So, it is like one's attitude towards working on the property is going down because look, I cannot make much effort or anything, and sometimes, I force myself and the next day I can't even walk because of the pain in my waist. But you must do while you can.

**Do you have like insurance when you cannot do anything?**

Yes, we have insurance from the country, they help us with insurance, but you know, everything is very slow. You go there, and you can go after three, four months, they give you an appointment. You ask for an appointment, and after three, four months the appointment is established. So, if one is to die when they give them the appointment, they are already dead. Thus, health is very slow because they help you, but it is very slow, very slow.

**Do you have access to a doctor and the medicines you need?**

Yes, we have them, but as I told you, they give each one a medical appointment that takes a long time to get to the medicine and the doctor. Two, three months an appointment can pass until the specialist tells you what you have. Which is very slow. So yes, we do. We have it, but it's very delayed.

**I would like to do an exercise. We have discussed different topics, about different aspects of life, and here I have some cards with different aspects of life. I would like to know how important this aspect is for you, to live well. If it is the most important, and you can put it on top or if it is less important, and you put it on the bottom, or maybe in the middle. I would like to talk about these things. Let's see, start with this, social relations.**

Social relationships.

**Higher?**

I think so because the social relationship is very important. It is the most important thing in life. Yes, because if there is no social relationship, there is nothing.

**Then you put it at the top. And are there things you would like to change in this regard?**

Well, what can I tell you? There are little things that they should... All this about social relationships with many people because not all of us think the same, nor do we all do the same thing. It would be very good.

**Public participation?**

Public participation... yes... I think it would be around here.

**In the middle.**

In the middle, yes.

**Why?**

Because it is like public things are not for me, and I don't trust public things. No, people always think you are beneath them. So, why would one tell the truth... Public things? No. I am very far away from the public because I don't...

**How is it, for example, in the association? Or in the Federation?**

Well, with the Federation, yes, well, I'm more secluded. With the association, I am doing well, with the association I work well, but with the Federation... Because they have their little things with us, and they want to manipulate. The Federation has had one thing, and they want theirs, and that is to manipulate, and it has to be what they say, and one is going to claim it and no. He cannot. So, I don't agree with that because if we are the owners of the association, they are all the owners of the association, that we are the guild, and they are going to have us... They are the ones who are going to control us... That the voice and vote are us, that we are the one who set it up and support it.

**Do you have an example of this?**

Well, the very basic examples are that many times, they want to put things on the properties that we don't agree with, like maybe a coffee seed, and we don't want to plant it, and they say, "Well, you should plant that." So, me, who manage it and work the property, I know what seed I like and what is good for me, not that they impose on me. They have an idea that they impose on you. Then, no.

**What happens when you don't accept?**

Well, they don't give it to you. They don't give you help because he didn't get involved. That's what I was saying. If I say “No, I am not going to do this”, well, they don't give you help, they keep telling you why not... No, you have to see what you do, what you like. Yes, or no? It doesn't seem to me that because one likes it, I have to do it based on the taste of another.

**Is the association different?**

The association is more different because there, they do allow you to give your opinion, who will see what you can do. But instead, the Federation does not. What the Federation wants to us to be beneath them.

**Residence?**

The residence is one of the important ones as well. So, I think we are going to put it here.

**High?**

Yes, high because if there is no residence, there is nothing.

**Are there things that you would like to change or improve in your house, regarding your residence? Or not? Are you satisfied?**

Well, no, I think it is fine there. I have it good. It's good there. We live there well.

**Leisure and game? Have spare time to rest, enjoy...**

I like to have time to rest and be out there. We can put all this here.

**What do you like to do when you have spare time?**

Well, when I'm free, I like going for a walk over there. Walking around the property, there, in the ravines, everything, like that, I like to walk and de-stress myself by walking. Taking away the routine of the property. I like it a lot.

**Do you think you have enough spare time to rest?**

Yes, there are times that I have time. Yes, because since I work on my own, there are times when I can get as much time as I want.

**Mobility?**

Mobility is also good, and I would put it here as well.

**And now do you have the opportunity to move to the places where you want?**

Yes.

**Satisfactory work?**

Yes, crucial. This, for now, we can put it here, or there.

**Higher?**

Yes, I also see it because work is very important for one. It is essential for someone on the property to have a job.

**Are you satisfied with your work?**

Yes, thank God, yes.

**Self-determination. The ability to make your own decisions.**

Yes.

**Same, high.**

I like to decide what I am going to do.

**Now, do you think you have the freedom to make your own decisions?**

Yes, I am free, thank God, to work. What I want to do, I do.

**And, for example, on the property, who makes the decisions?**

I make the decisions about everything because, thank God, I make the decisions, and it is respected, and everything is fine there.

**Nutrition?**

Nutrition... Another important one. Here. Nutrition is one of the important ones as well.

**Yes. Do you always have enough food?**

Yes. I make an effort for that, for the food.

**Education and knowledge?**

Well, education and knowledge... Yes, well, we attend talks anyway. I have always liked to be aware of all these talks, of everything about...

**Really? Do you go to…?**

Yes, I do a lot of training. I have been in many trainings, yes, I am active.

**Why?**

Because one has to learn things about the world, about life, how it advances and progresses everyday more. So, one has to move towards that, one can never be left behind, and go at the same pace that the world and things are advancing. So, that's why I like it. I really like the training.

**Mental health?**

Mental health is also important. Here.

**Taking care of the environment?**

The environment, what I told you, very important.

**But now you put it with not too much importance? As not very important.**

But if I put it here, can I put it higher?

**Wherever you want.**

Can I put it on top here too?

**If you want, yes.**

Ah, yes, there is no problem because I thought that I had to fill the gaps.

**Oh no, no. How important is it?**

It is important. As I said, it seems to have to be filled in here.

**No, if you want, we can put it here.**

That is important to me.

**Safety?**

Safety as well, we have to put it on top because if there is no safety, there is nothing.

**Finally, there is physical health.**

We also have to put physical health on top.

**Of all these aspects, if you could change or improve one aspect, or two aspects, which would it be?**

The aspects that one could... One that we could change a lot is this.

**Mobility?**

Yes, because if it gets complicated, and then one is left without mobility, or very poorly. And if you don't have mobility, how do you get the products out of the property?

**Why?**

Sometimes, because the issue of... Very bad road, the cars… One gets into one, and it moves because of the bad roads. So, one would like to change that mobility because mobility is also important on the property.

**Are there more things you would like to change?**

Health. It is another thing that one must also change. What else do I tell you? This... This is another one I'd like to change.

**Yes? Nutrition?**

Of course, everyday one becomes more malnourished because we are older, more malnourished. I think so. Education is also very good. Education is also very good, although I represent the tale in which the old parrot didn't learn to speak, but it is. Education because I don't really like studying, but I do like training, trainings. I have had many trainings, with SENA, with everything. So, that's what I'm telling you, education.

**With SENA as well?**

Yes, I have a lot of training with SENA.

**At the end, I explain a little more about our project because we are interested in the waste that is generated, for example, the pulp of coffee, or the cacao husk. We are investigating whether it is possible to transport it to a plant, like this, and we are researching on a technology that can convert this biomass into different products. One of those is a biocrude, and another is a biochar. This biocrude can be used as a raw material to produce other things, and we are investigating whether it can produce biofuels, like biodiesel, for the maritime industry, but it can also be used in airplanes or for bioplastics, or other things. I would like to know which kind of waste is generated on your property.**

I use the waste that I generate to give it back to the soil, the pulp. Coffee pulp. Thus, right now, I pick it up and leave it on the ground so that it improves. But if it didn't, it would be great to reuse it for other things.

**Really? Because if there is the possibility, or there is a plant here in the region, would you be willing?**

Sure, I would bring it. I do.

**Why?**

Because it would be very good for... What is going to be done so that it does not contaminate more. Because if you throw them away, now there are many people who put them in the tubes, that is contamination. If one sees that the waste is not going to be collected to leave it for the soil, then, instead of throwing it away to be burnt, it can be used for something else. I would like it.

**Would you be willing to provide all the pulp, or is it important that part of it remains on your property?**

It would be like that, yes, one part. A part to sustain, to be able to sustain the crops because if one does not contribute, then it cannot be sustained. It would be one part and the other to reuse it.

**We are thinking of a collection center where all the coffee cherries can be brought. Not the beans, but the coffee cherry to a place. What do you think about this? Would you be willing to do that, to change practices?**

Yes, well, we can do it.

**Under which conditions? What is needed to do it?**

It would depend on reaching an agreement and taking a good look at how things are going to be done, and thus we can tell you to be there until the end. Already being as an association, as a group where we are all involved, looking at how it is going to be able to help, how things are going to be done, and it is done, yes.

**Do you see difficulties or obstacles to doing such a thing?**

Well, what do I tell you? A thing like this has difficulties in terms of the plant, which may be that the plant already done, and everyone comes in to bring things. What happens is that if there is no plant and there is nothing... Nobody stays. So, what I say, the difficulty is that the plant is set up and the association where it is going to work is set up, and I know that together we can get it ahead.

**Well, those were my questions. I don't know if there is anything you would like to discuss further.**

No.

**Thank you very much.**