**A8CF - Interview president women's association Risaralda - 17-7-2022**

**You can start with a personal introduction.**

My name is [name], proudly Colombian. I am the legal representative of the Association [name] in [place], municipality of Risaralda, and I represent everything that relates to rural women in the municipality. I also represent the Committee of Coffee Growers. We are a network of women in gender inclusion in all. I have tried to get involved in these entities to make people understand that the female gender should also be involved in so many things where there were only spaces for men. Thus, that's my goal.

**Do you have a property too?**

I have a property, and I am a coffee maker. I have a property in the [place], in a village called [place], and it is a coffee field, has bananas, yucca. It is a very productive region, therefore, what you plant, it produces. Yes, quite pleasant and good weather.

**And how many hectares do you have more or less?**

Six and a half blocks. That is, three long hectares.

**Did you explain that this association started...?**

The association started 23 years ago. 23 years. And it was also through a director who was in the Umata, which is even still there. It started with some communal orchards on the sidewalks, and contributions started, and what the woman did at home, where she only was seen in a kitchen, or in the care of her husband and children, and that. Then, he saw that it could be a strong point involving women in something other than the household because those orchards worked as support for the family itself. So, from there, he already began to form groups in all the villages. He already organized in [place], in a room that we had there, he called all of us, and we created the Association of Rural Women. There, that was 23 years ago. And 120 women started. At this time, after there were restructurings, many things changed, and it began to sustain itself. Every month we have a meeting, we all meet.

**Each month?**

Every month we meet at the Umata, they are given seed material. All what is seed material is given to them, with which they work. A quantity of chicken is given to them, the concentrate is given to them, with something that is used there called a revolving fund. Revolving fund is something very essential in associations because through it, the projects can be sustained. So, when we did that, for example, we give Ana, here where we are today, we give her ten chickens, and a care package. That has a value. Thus, later, she pays back the value, but the earnings of what she has left is for her, to strengthen herself, and to buy on her own. And this is how they start, and all this grows.

**It's like a loan.**

It's a loan. Therefore, they return it because when they return it, they return the money and return a small part that is going to benefit others that had not been benefited. Because that is done by groups. For instance, there are 70 of us at this time, ten get benefits. When those ten are finished, they returned the benefit, and another ten get it. And meanwhile, others are working with chickens, and others are given some baby pigs, and when the pigs breed, then this person returns some pigs to another of the users. And in this way, the program is continued by everyone’s support. It is a support, and the truth is that seeing them, after years. We started with this project and, in the meantime, I returned to the association again. And after six months of being there, I was already chosen as representative, president of the association, and we started with the farmer markets. The farmer market is where each one produces certain amount so that she has to have leftovers to sell in that market, but first she has to supply her house because it is not about them going and selling and then buying to take away. Thus, there are even times when we do the market, since [place] has all climates... In this municipality, that's what's good about it. That it has all the materials, and all the products are here. It is an important pantry. In the Department, it is the best pantry that there is in terms of production, and that is why all the associations have worked because you cultivate; then, in the cold land there are the ladies who produce the cheese, and all the milk derivatives, so that, in another land, more temperate are those that take out the bananas, the fruits, and in another a little less, they bring vegetables. Therefore, the market is completely... It has everything. Hence, what is the issue there? As the fund that we are making is the benefit that they are learning to have because they are receiving it, but learning. Because they, for example, in the countryside, the women, the majority, well, they finish their work at home, and after noon they go to watch soap operas and do what... instead, with this what is encouraged is that they have that culture that you must plant what you eat. That is the social purpose, the social part that the association has. The union among all because we are a group that grabs my attention. When the month is passing, and we have not met, they start saying in the group: “What happened?”, “When is the assembly?”, and that is very nice, what attracts the most attention. And, I don't know the concept they have in other places, but the concept here, in [place], is that if you support a woman, you are supporting a family. Yes, because if you go there and give the incentives to the man who works because it is also a very big contribution to the household, but it stays there. Women also think about more things. And when that is done, it involves the entire household itself because if you come to an orchard, you find the children, the husband, her, with her family. So, it is a very nice social part, and it has made them also empower themselves as women.

**Is it like a rural association?**

It is rural.

**Not specifically for coffee?**

It is clearly rural, it has nothing to do with whether it is a coffee producer, if it produces... All the parts are there. The first thing is that it must have, when one of them asks to enter the association, we visit her. And if she has crops, and if you see that she has, it is verified because it seems impossible that on a property, you don't even have a lemon for a lemonade, and many properties do it. That happens. So, those ladies are suitable to belong to the association. The first thing is that. Therefore, they are watching, the neighbors look at the associates “look at what she is doing”, and they also follow the example. And the example has been multiplying. When I started as president, we were 32, currently we are 70.

**For that reason, that the neighbors see and...**

Of course. Because of the example. And, sometimes, we stop accepting them because it is true that where there is so much quantity, the quality runs out. So, it is better to have the ones that are well organized and that's it, as I say. They, the ladies, spend Saturdays going to the market, and they pass by our market and ask, “What about them?”, and when we tell them what is happening, they want to get involved too. Thus, it is like that. It's like... What we are doing, that people see that it can be done.

**And now does it have approximately seventy-five people?**

Right now, we are seventy.

**Do all those seventy come every month, or is it more like a small group which is more active?**

No. Sometimes three or four may be absent because they are sick, or have an appointment, but the rest, almost always, the same group. Yes, they are very committed. It is a very good group.

**As an association, do you receive money from the government or other associations?**

We have been self-sustaining, as it is said. We do... We started... To achieve all the things we have, we hold raffles.

**Raffles?**

Raffles. I mean, for instance, we have a little calf. We take a checkbook, we write down the numbers, and that calf, I sell you a ticket. Well, it is sold among all the people, and then a raffle is made with a lottery. That's what they call games of chance. So then, with that lottery, the one who wins gets that little pig, and we have the profits for the association, and with that, we sustain ourselves, with what we do. We have… Mother's Day is celebrated, it is preferred in June, to celebrate the family day. The Father’s Day is not celebrated, nor the Mother’s Day, but the Family Day. In December, it is celebrated. There are times when we have someone to help us, and we go for a walk. All together. That's a fantastic time. Therefore, that's how we receive the money. It is from that part. Currently, we have… Well, eight years ago, we presented a project of an alliance to the Ministry, and they rejected it because at that time, we did not have what is the part or the experience in sales. We did not know anything about selling, we did not have any. But with the market, we fine-tuned everything. Thus, there we began to calculate, like “today that much was sold”, and we were taking those slowly, and we came back and presented it already with that experience, and we won it. Therefore, since April. No, we won it in 2019, but as this whole pandemic thing started, it stopped, and we barely started in April of this year. From there, we have game production. And each lady... That alliance was presented for 40 women. Those 40 women, at this moment, each one, as you saw here, there is a little farm. They all have the same because they watch each other. For example, we go weekly to a different farm to see how they are doing because there is a technician, the zootechnist, a veterinarian. Hence, this project is with everything, that's why it was very useful for us. So, we go to the property and the one that does not have the animals as they should be, after having taught them, then they are removed and taken to another woman. That has a lot... It is tidy. So that's how we have come out. It is the only help that we can say that we have had directly from the State, and it is the alliance. Therefore, with that Alliance, the State gave 200 million, the municipality gave 25, the government gave 40, and we, the project is 700 million, but most of it is provided by us through work, in production, in everything. Basically, the money received is 250 million. And that money is returned, it is reimbursable in a revolving fund, where with that, what do we do? Hens have a laying time. So, after 16-18 months, you have to be thinking that you have to replace them with new ones. And these are sold in the same market to people, very tasty for broths, and people like them very much. They are sold, and with what we have stored there, which each one pays. Imagine how easy it is. We made it so easy that each one gives two boxes of eggs a week, and with that, they are going to pay three million one hundred, which is what we need because the project itself, each one benefits from 5 million 500, more or less, in money, but of that they return, we return, that I am also there, we return 3 million one hundred. With those 3 million one hundred, what do they do? We keep them there, as I told you before, to replace those hens that are already old and have left their laying. Hence, what is it about? The revolving fund is very important in an alliance or in an association. For example, the alliances there, the ones that always present them, are the associations. Because the association knows very well how to control that. Therefore, when we have that fund, they are already there, and well, we are going to make another request, and we have the money. So, the project is not going to fall. Because everything you earn, if you are given two or three chickens, and you eat them, and everything is over. However, in this project, it is not like that.

**To be a member, do women have to pay anything?**

Look, to be a member, the main thing is to be from the countryside. That she lives in the countryside because there are women who say they have a property, but it is one thing to have a property and another thing is to work there.

**It's different, yes.**

It is being all day in the hustle and bustle of the farm. So, when that happens, the lady who says: “I want to belong to the association”, the first thing that is asked is to have one of the technicians. Because Umata is the main support we have, I forgot to say that. The mayor's office is a great support, and the government, for us as an association, even when we started the market. We started with a tiny little house that was blown by the wind, and when they saw that we were selling, and we did not have any, they gave us everything. They gave us everything for the market, tables, chairs, tents… We have everything. So, well, I catch up what I was going... In... I don’t remember...

**I asked about resources, if women have to pay.**

That is. What do they need to be associated? Then, a technician from Umata is requested, that each sector, each village has a technician. So, that technician is the one who says, “Ah, Marleny, I went to visit, the lady has a property, she has a place to produce”. That one is accepted, she pays 15,000 pesos for affiliation, and we, every month, give 10,000 pesos, which is what the association sustains itself with. We support her, and that is a requirement of every association, that one must contribute. Therefore, we provide 15,000 pesos. We contribute with raffles and other things. Thus, the main one is to be from the countryside, that they live there, that they produce there, that it is not that they have people, and it is someone else who is going to do the work for me, no, it is you who is going to work there. So, that's the main requirement.

**We asked you before, but why an association especially for women?**

The association is especially for women because when women get involved, the family is involved. Because there are people who say: "But why cannot a man come in?" The man is also there. What happens is that he is moved to background because the man already has a job there on the property, which has never been recognized to the woman. The woman has not been noticed. So, what did we want? To make sure that those women that we saw, who knew how to produce, who knew how to do other things, could, through an association, be strengthened because the government and the mayor's office help us with materials to plant, they give us the tools, they help us with many things. Therefore, the woman was thought of… When, for example, at the farmer's market, when they are going to leave, they say “I sold so much. With this, I am going to buy something for my son, I am going to buy something that I need at home”. So, the vision of women is more different in that sense because it is not to exclude men, it is that the main thing is also, and what we instill is the family. And that is why we thought that it was missing, as in that family, to involve the main character of the family, the woman. And the man suddenly contributes and all that, and it is a complement, but if a household is not strengthened by a woman, believe me... It does not sound feminist because I am not a feminist, but I am convinced that women must be given the position she deserves. And that's it, and that's why everything we can do… And one sees them empowered, something they did not have before. They arrived and greeted, quietly, shy. Now, each one arrives and knows where she is going. Thus, that is very nice, to see them that already took their position and realized that they were really worth it. Because it was what they lacked, to give themselves that value. And if you give them the value, they will have all the tools to work for the household because if you go into one of those homes, you will see that. Look at this lady here, and she has her husband, she has her children, and they all work, but seeing her empowered, that's the best.

**So, what things have changed in terms of the position of women, for example, in the field?**

In the field, it seems to me that the main thing, and what I see mainly in the women of the association is, as the main thing, empowerment because each one realized that she was important at home, so they became more productive. They became less shy, they now talk, they know that they have a place in society, which was what they did not have. Thus, these women from the association are different from others, it seems incredible, but they are different because they are empowered. For me, the main thing, what I say is that, is to empower oneself, without disrespecting the husband, knowing how to run the household as it should be, and that is the most beautiful thing. Yes, I think that the social work that I do there with them, for me, is what satisfies me the most. It is that way.

**What were the challenges on this process? And how was the position change between women and men?**

Yes, at the beginning they felt, as they said: “Yes, she is going to learn a lot there, she is going to become very empowered, and suddenly, she is going to start ruling here”. That was one of the obstacles. Many of them even left because of that because the husband saw that they were taking wings, as it is said. That, with those little wings, they flew alone. Many, especially in the coffee region, there is a lot of sexism. So, it was not convenient for them that women went somewhere else, since, sometimes, we have to go out two or three times a week because we go to a meeting. Thus, they were not going to like that anymore. Many of them left. For me, the main challenge was that, but seeing them now, some men even accompany them to everything.

**Really?**

Yes, you attend one of our meetings… Because, sometimes, the boss just tells you that it is not only for women. There are the husbands, the children.

**They all go...**

Yes. So, all of that is very nice, but at the beginning, for many, they used to join and after a few days they left. “What happened”, “No, my husband told me such a thing” or “He didn't want to give me the ticket”, and then I tell them: “You don't have to be asking your husband for money to go out. Produce”. And the majority do that, the majority do it, and they have their money. That's what it is this about.

**For example, in coffee cultivation, are there different activities that women and men have?**

Here, on this side, most of the men, and most of the women do the same on the property.

**Really? The same?**

The same. For instance, one knows couples who have a small property and the husband... The woman gets up early, cooks for the whole day, and goes with her husband to the fields. And she works with her husband in the fields all the time, especially those that are coffee crops because the coffee has post-harvest. You can see all of them with money, they all go and get into the coffee plantation, they get paid. They pay them for the coffee harvest, and they get involved in everything, including the seedbeds that there have been. When we sow, it is almost always done by the women, with the children. If the husband prepares the land for them, he mixes it with the fertilizers that he has to mix, which are almost always organic, and right here. Then, he prepares the land, and the bags, and the woman with the children, in the afternoon, they are the ones who fill those bags. Therefore, they get involved in everything. So, there is no distinction in that, no.

**And the processing? The same? Do men and women both do it?**

Yes, the same. If she has to wash the coffee, she washes it, if she has to peel the coffee, she peels it too. Thus, it is something done... I think it is what is done more in common, the production of coffee. Drying. In the drying, the man pulls out the drawer, and it is the woman who is going to stay removing the coffee, giving it the proper drying point. So, in what is coffee, everyone is involved. There, yes.

**Currently, what are the challenges in the sector and in the position of women? Is there anything you would like to change and improve?**

To improve? There are things to improve because I think that women must look for political spaces. Yes, I think it is important. Of course, we do politics every day, in what we do. There are people who say that this is politics, they call us liars, and they become politicians. All day is what it is done. Life is that, but I would like women to have other sources of employment, other opportunities, in the universities. Of course, here in [place], what for? We have the University of UNISARC, and sometimes they grant scholarships, and as many as you want. But in other senses, yes, I would like to achieve those spaces. The challenge is that. The challenge we have is to reach these markets. This association is well known, but I would like to reach the markets with it. For example, I am planning to create a vegetable orchard. About ten women get together, and make a communal orchard for the markets, to earn more. And that would be something for... So, all these challenges would be to make these markets expand more throughout the Department. Suddenly, send some samples to other places, as we do with coffee. With the coffee, we have gone to the August fair.

**Really?**

Yes, with the special coffee that we produce, which I was now telling the Special Coffee Association here in [place], that you are going to *Asorrosa*, right?

**Yes.**

You will realize that it is very cute. So, in that production, there was representation in Boston, with the fair. The best coffees, in many places, we have won here. And it is an achievement, why? Because here, in [place], we had the culture of selling wet coffee. Wet coffee is prone to cause problems. The quality is damaged a lot on the way. So, with those 163 affiliates that we are in *Asorrosa*, they have already changed our mindset, and we have already learned to dry and take it directly to where they buy it from us dry. They give us greater value.

**A change then?**

Yes. That was a change. With that association, it was a change. Just as I was one, that I did not know what my coffee tasted like, I didn't know. I drank ordinary coffee. And one day I started to think: “Hey, I'm going to take a little bit, and see what my coffee tastes like”, and it seemed super tasty, and then I could not drink any other coffee, but this one. Thus, it is empowerment also in terms of coffee growers because we, coffee growers, were messy about that. And now, many, you go to any property, and if you live here, each one makes their little coffee and organizes it, and they drink it in the same house. So, that is something that association achieved.

**This change from selling it wet to dry, how did it go?**

It was through the Committee of Coffee Growers that they began to form the group of specialty coffees. According to them, they saw the most promising coffee growers, and they affiliated them. So, that association was constituted and several of us entered. And then they started: "If you want to sell good coffee...", and we were changing the mindset, "If you want to sell good coffee, dry it". And [place] had a problem. The climate in [place] is almost always like this, so drying coffee is very difficult. It is very difficult because the sun does not reach us. So, that's why they made us these drying houses. The Coffee Growers Committee began to encourage, even when I was president. Many were delivered. Many drying houses were delivered so that each one had a good processing. We have been given the tools for that. Well-organized machines. This was super important because you pour the coffee there, and you do not have to worry if it rained, or it was warm because it dries the coffee there itself. And the silos. Silos have also been given to the properties to dry the coffee, but it seems better to me that way because the silo, as it is something very rushed, takes away many flavors from the coffee, it takes away its quality. So, that's it. And right now, for example, I have my special coffee called *Mi Terruño*, and people buy it and love it. That tasty coffee, I sell it packed in bags. I have sent it to friends in Spain, in the United States, and they love that coffee. I sell it at the farmer's market.

**You have said before that you want women to have more spaces, in politics. What prevents you from doing that now?**

The shyness. I arrive, for example, at a meeting... I have a reputation for being... Where I stand... But then, I arrive at a meeting, and it is always the man who knows how to speak, the man who knows what to say, and we are very shy. So, what is it? I tell them a lot that we must get out of that, we are all the same. We are all equal, and one has to... Above all, that is why it is so important to train a little. One gets training if necessary to get out of that idea that keeps one on the property in which everyone thinks is above you. No. That's what I would like. And achieve, and I tell them that our team has many leaders. Village Leaders. They are presidents of boards; they have a very good leadership. Therefore, all this must be highlighted in the association. I try to point out, “This one has capabilities for that. Come and do that." All of this has made them change their position, and we are even thinking of the association looking for one that joins the council because with a person who reaches the field council, we can do much more. So, that's it. But I think that the political field is very important. Although people say that politics is this, and that. Politics is necessary. I, who have been a leader all my life, I am not capable of dealing with a leadership without politics. You need them. Even this mayor there is now. He has contributed a lot to us in the association. He has given us a lot. All of that is what needs to be achieved, but she is going to achieve it with clean leadership. Real leadership because there are leaderships that are useless.

**But now in the local government, is it a government…?**

For me, like everything. For some it is bad, for me, it is good. I know it, and I am working closely with it, it is a good government.

**What is done, for example, on his farm with coffee waste? With the pulp, for example, and honey.**

The pulp, here, is the wasteland, and it will fall into a large drawer, and it dries and is processed there. That is what we fertilize with. Since there are hens in the house, there are chickens... Everything that comes out of the kitchen is composted, and the compost is made and mixed. It is mixed with everything that comes out, as I say, the coffee husk and all that, and with that, the properties are fertilized. And now even more since we hardly have anything to buy fertilizer with because it is too expensive. So, that's an advantage.

**So, you don’t buy fertilizers?**

I do buy because a property without fertilizer is a lie that one is capable of taking it forward. That's why we... When I say that my coffee is ecologic, but it is not organic because I have to fertilize. If I do not apply the fertilizer to that property, those stems, no matter how much organic I add, it does not work. It does not produce. So, all of this is necessary, but we are already buying less.

**You buy less and use that...**

Sure, we use everything from the property. Sometimes, when we clean, all these weeds are cut, and that same thing gets into that composting, and that decomposes, yes, and that is compost.

**And, for example, do you also have bananas?**

There are also bananas. So, for instance, the stems that cut, all that goes there. My property has almost 1,500 banana plants. Yes. The sector where I live is very productive. There are about 13,000... On the property, there are about 14,000 coffee sticks, 1,200 of.... And there is yucca, and I have a small orchard...

**And all the residues are used to fertilize?**

Yes, everything that comes out, from all parts, everything is used. There, I am going to show you a large composting, where it is mixed, and there when it passes there it is already drier, and the other drier is already packed, and taken to the […].

**Therefore, does everything have a use?**

Yes, everything has a use. The plastics are kept in a place where the plastics are deposited, and those are taken away. The garbage truck takes them because there is no service here.

**I would like to show an image of the concept we work with, which is called BioHub. And the idea is that in this area, there are different communities that produce biomass that is not used now, for example, agricultural residues. That is transformed into a biorefinery, where it can be turned into different products. And now, we are researching a technology that can produce four different products, first, fuel, a biocarbon that can be used again on the properties, and biogas and biowater, which can be used in the plant. Here in Colombia, we are investigating different types of waste: cocoa, coffee pulp, and… Well, a processing plant can look like this, and it has that biocarbon, that biocrude. It can be used to produce different things. We are interested in that, for the ships. It can be used in an airplane, but it can also be used as a bioplastic, or all those things.**

Amazing, that's very interesting!

**And we are investigating whether such a concept is possible, here in Colombia, with these types of waste, and well, what opportunities, and what benefits it can generate, as well as the challenges. So first, what do you think of this idea?**

Super interesting, and it is what we have to do. Imagine, it is that because of being messy and because of so many things, it happens to us that we have destroyed the floors, the environment. It is all over. It is the hand of man. They say that there is a landslide, but we are the ones who end up with the earth. Thus, all those things are very interesting. In *La Capilla*, my village, there are some huge pig farms, and those farms, all of them, the energy of those farms comes from right there. It is from there.

**Do they produce energy?**

In other words, they have a special treatment that they give to all the pig manure residues. They go to a biocompound. That breaks down there, and that gets to a part where it produces energy. And that's so nice. That is huge! Because there are 25,000 – 30,000 pigs. They are huge farms. They are all lit by this gas. And that's what we should all do, but the majority... That's why I say, in [place], that you have to go to the fields more to teach that. To teach because most take plastics and burn them. All these things that can be done, for example, everything that comes out of the shells with what you eat. That's the best fertilizer there is, but we don't use it. Anything can be done with it. Well, all these projects seem to me, without being so environmentalist because I do what is normal, but without being that, it seems to me that it is the most interesting thing that can be done. I think it is a very good project. I hope it gets to...

**You told me that now you use all the waste as compost. What do you think about using it in another way?**

Yes, for us to replace other things, it will be that. Well, how would it be done?

**Now we are investigating this biochar. It can also be used as a fertilizer, as compost. We are investigating that. But that implies a change, a change of practices.**

Of mindset, yes. It is true because then, this would go to a specific part where this process would be done. That is what they want, some plants where this process is done. Later, they will return it to us in biocarbon and in this. Would it be like this?

**Yes, well, it can be a possibility, yes, but also all those things are very open, so we are looking at how it can be used.**

Well, for example, currently, the problem we have with fertilizers. Why don't we have them? Because being Colombia, and I will always recognize it, being Colombia a country with so much land to plant, how is it that they have to export corn from somewhere else? Import it. We have suffered so much for urea, for animal concentrates, and they have to import corn where there is land. Here, at least, it is well produced, but there are lost lands. Why not use that with people who want to work? Organize those crops? But they all have to bring it. So, we lack a lot of culture in that sense. But if this happens and gives results, I think it is spectacular because, for example, a urea factory is starting to be built, to produce urea right here because urea is too expensive. We bought a package for 60,000 pesos, and it is 220,000 pesos. There is no way to afford it anymore. So, that's why we have to make use of all that we are doing on the property to be able to make that coffee produce something. Because coffee, if you do not work on the property, it is not going to give you either.

**You need fertilizer.**

Yes, fertilizer is needed, and this is one form, biochar, well, super good. It would be very good. I think. I like it

**What benefits can it have, or should it generate for the farmers?**

Also, well, creating that culture would be very good because so much contamination would end because all these things, when you have them anywhere; a lot of people take it, and they put it in a burlap/sackcloth, and throw it somewhere. And that is a contaminant because that burlap is never going to rot. So, all of that is what I see that could be a good thing. It is going to help us take care of the environment, and they are reusable things that, if they can provide us with all that in a long term, it would be good.

**You, for example, on your property, if there is that possibility, something near here, would you be willing to extract that biomass?**

Sure, and well, to access this, what would it be like?

**Sorry?**

If I am handing over what belongs to my property, then how do I access and get what I gave from my property? How do I fertilize? What compensation do I have?

**Yes, then you need as an alternative for this pulp, replace.**

Exactly.

**It is a good condition.**

It is like thinking that if I am giving that, what benefit do I have? Because if I offer that, I must have what to pay my property with, which is what I fertilize with. Because the truth is, currently there is not... Well, we should also think about that.

**What benefits would you like to receive then?**

That then I could also access the things that you are going to produce with what I am providing... it would be a good thing.

**Like receiving a part of the biocarbon?**

Yes, but this, would you turn it into chemicals, or what?

**This? We are investigating this for biofuels, for the maritime sector, but there are also other opportunities.**

In other words, by having this, what it would be is fuel for this. With everything received, this fuel would be produced, and it would be a fuel that would contribute to something good that does not have to use chemicals or all those things, would that be like this?

**Yes.**

Well, understanding it that way, it seems good to me, as environmentally friendly.

**But then, is it important to you that you receive something as compensation?**

Yes, that’s it. Like when Ecopetrol passes through my land, for instance. Ecopetrol has a pipeline through here, and fuel is passing through there to reach many parts. When they go through there, they must pay a royalty, and they must pay something to the part where it is. That's what I mean. Yes, because with that, you would create a company, right? You are going to provide all this using what we are going to give you. So, the same thing happens with Ecopetrol. Most people say that it is a danger, that such a pipe passes through the property, that at any moment it can explode, or many things can happen. Not here because here it would be something different. But yes, if, for example, I am offering that because look, in low season in [place], they collect everything that is in the town, they get rid of everything. I mean, they recycle. That recycling and all what they carry, what do they do? They take it aside. There are times that they bring everything for cleaning products, they make a consideration/payment. Is that?

**Yes, it is that, a commission. Do you see obstacles to organizing something here?**

The obstacles I see are those, that the first thing you have to do is creating a culture where people do that because the countryside... Because, for example, here there is so much production, here there is a lot. This coffee region is very good for that because you go to other places where the paddocks, where there are other things, suddenly, pig manure, cow manure can be used for something like that. I do not know how it is in your project. In that one, no. Would your project be only organic products that one takes from the property?

**Yes.**

That would be something else... Because around here, yes, productive, a lot is produced on small properties, *bricole*, corn. So, all those canes and all that is thrown away, all of that is often lost in the coffee plantation.

**As a mindset, to change practices and ideas… What is necessary to achieve that?**

The main thing is...

**I mean, what? How?**

Well, with more training, going to the fields to teach how these things are handled, such as the commitment that, if I have all that collected here, they will come to pick it up. Because another thing would be, I do know that they are going to take it to a certain point, I am not going to like it anymore.

**With whom do we have to do these trainings?**

With the people in the field. Through the Communal Association Board, the board calls the people, normally they make the announcements, and the municipality itself.

**Do you think the association can have a role in that?**

I think so, it could be. Especially, if it is to encourage them to these things. Well, it seems interesting to me. It could be like starting to work on that part that I am saying, the cultural part.

**It is important.**

Which is what we do not have. Yes, well, but they do not learn. It is about training them, and showing them... For example, when around here, they were going to do something with the government to teach us how to recycle everything on the properties. It did not work. Why? Because the cars did not come to collect, so nothing was returned. It is all that you must have like that... Have all that little organization of how you are going to work. The rest, yes.

**And now, do all producers carry out this coffee processing, for example, on their individual properties?**

Yes.

**What do you think of the idea of ​​instead transporting the dried beans to a place, to sell the whole cherry?**

The shell or the almond?

**Yes, well, do not remove the pulp, and do the fermentation and drying process on the property, but do it in a closed place.**

As it is, the worker delivers the coffee, and likewise delivers it already weighed because there are times when we buy coffee that way.

**Really? In cherry?**

Yes, but they are people who have large electric rakes, and near them, they export. Therefore, they go and say, “if you want, I will buy all the coffee you collect this week”. I buy it in cherry, he tells me to deliver it here in the sacks, I weigh it and take it with me.

**And how is it going? Do they come to the property and transport it?**

Yes. For example, I have two workers here. So, they leave for the day, and in the afternoon, they come "I collected so much", it is weighed, and it is delivered. It is delivered to the person who is going to buy it.

**And that person does the transportation?**

He already takes it, and he does all the processing there because many times it is also used for exporting, for roasting...

**So, is that done?**

Yes, there is part here, and part where it is done. There are people who accept. We have a property called *La Ínsula*, in Manizales, in Chinchiná. It is called *La Ínsula*, and that property buys coffee practically everywhere like that.

**Like that, in cherry?**

Yes. Thus, if there are some. I would say that I like it because it is something that I like to toast...

**You brew your own coffee. Not for you?**

Because I, for example, when I have a batch at home, I do not fertilize it, but with everything organic and all that, to avoid putting so many chemicals on it. Because I do put it, but very little. And that coffee plantation is only for that special coffee that I sell. Because that coffee has a very special flavor, very good.

**So, you have a batch for...?**

I even send it to be collected separately, and I process and peel it separately from the others. Then, yes. But regarding the husk, since there are times that it might be useful for someone. For instance, this winter it is difficult to dry. So, all at once, one delivers it and the other gives it. What happens is that it depends on the price they give you because they are going to lower it because you are not going to buy eggs to sell eggs.

**Can it also damage or disrupt an existing system or have negative impacts?**

No, I do not think so. What happens is what I tell you, make us aware of that because it seems very good to me. But what I am telling you is that, if they go and collect, and we know what day they are coming, so we have everything here ready for them to take it away, that does not seem crazy to me.

**Is it important for a company to come and pick it up?**

Yes, because if not, what process would it be, and how would they do it on each property?

**I don't know, maybe because now the producers take their coffee to a place to transport it. Do you think it would be possible to do it with waste like this, or just coffee? Because you have to transport the waste from the properties to a point of...**

So, it is that, that a coffee grower is not going to pay for a car to take all those things to a part, when it is something that he is giving/offering, that could benefit his property. Therefore, all those little dots would have to be looked at.

**Yes.**

Yes, also because if you tell me, “Collect all the chicken manure, all of that is useful for these processes”. But as it is, as I tell you, it is the transport, that they pick it up at the property. I know that we are all going to think the same in that sense because costs increase a lot with transportation. And as I told you, I am going to stop benefiting my property to offer it, and besides, I am not going to deliver them until there. It is like this.

**Finally, we want to understand the different actors who have a role in the coffee sector, and also who may have a role in a new value chain, and their relationship to each other. We prepared this graph, and here you can see different actors. Here, on this side, is the power they have, whether it is high or low, and the interest they have in a new value chain from waste, whether it is high or low. So, here are the actors who have high power, and high interest, here high power, but low interest, and everything is low, and here it is high interest, but low power. I would like to ask you how you see these actors. If it is correct, or we have to change it according to your point of view.**

**How do you see the position of the national government in, for instance, a project like this? Do you think it has a lot of interest in it or low interest? And how do you see its position in terms of power? We think it might have high power but low interest, but I don't know how you see it.**

Yes, because governments may suddenly like this a lot, but when it hits them in the pocket, that they see that they have also to... Because this is a contribution from everyone, right? To carry out that, it seems to me that it is a contribution of all. Governments, now that there is going to be a government more interested in the environment, in so many things, suddenly might be more interested in that. Straight away, they become interested because the government, the one that won this time, I see it as very environmental, so maybe something can be achieved with it. In the regional government, we have a very good governor, a governor who could also... You get involved, you also socialize with them, right?

**We haven't yet...**

But do you?

**Yes, we want to talk.**

Well, from the municipality too because the municipality, for example, is very environmentalist. Thus, it might become a positive influence.

**Hence, do you see it with more interest than we do now?**

Yes. And the maritime industry, imagine how come they are not going to like it, but the ones who are indeed not going to like it are going to be the ones that produce the chemicals that supply those… Like everyone else, right? Those who supply. Communication platforms, what about it?

**It is like a platform where different actors come together and communicate about what is going on in the industry, but we haven’t yet… Well, we have heard that it doesn't exist around here yet.**

Well... The biorefinery, suppliers...

**And, for example, the position of the Coffee Federation? You also have experience in that. How does it look for you?**

And the cooperatives... Well, I think, that's what I tell you, raise awareness first, do it with the people. Inform, educate, and know that for me this is a good project, for me, but I don't know how others see it. Thus, I can say, well, work on each part of these, the Cooperatives in [place], or in all the municipalities where you have been, you have been to the cooperatives.

**How is the position of the Federation towards innovations?**

They are very aware that we have those waters, those honeys, and that they do not continue to contaminate the waters. In that sense, the cooperative, the Federation, the Coffee Growers Committee, even sometimes they create programs and deliver things, processing plants with the purpose of ending this... Because the truth is that one arrives, and peels the coffee, and what is the honey, many times it remains right there. So, in all of this, our committee does seem to me that... Senicafé, as well, don't even mention it because Senicafé is an association in Chinchiná, super organized in that, and with James... Coffee growers. Imagine if they teach us that because I, personally, think it is good that we can make a contribution with this, even though we have some coffee growers who are selling these husks as jam.

**In jam? Oh yeah, we have seen it before.**

In jam, they are already doing... That, for them, is not going to be very good because they are using it, but in other places, it is not lost, but they throw it in the coffee plantation. Academia...

**How do you see the position of coffee growers in terms of power? In a position of power in all this of the system, and of the sector.**

In the same sector? Or in what? Because you talk to me here, in coffee, in coffee growers, you refer to the coffee union.

**Yes.**

Power? Well, here in the Department, here in Risaralda, well, I don't see so much difficulty because the representative from [place], James Williams, who is from [place] and has been very well welcomed because he is a person who knows how to do things, knows where to go to get all this. Hence, with him, you could also achieve all this, and subsequently reach academia. Well, it is all about schools and all that, so they start looking... For instance, in [place], there is an agricultural school. It would be very good to start there, so that those young people who are starting there, can do it. Down here, well, I see out there... As I say, I see interest in this, that we can achieve an interest, that we can get there first, socializing very well with people, the project is not...

**This is really relevant.**

The project just came out. But well, I like it.

**Are there missing actors? That they have a very important role, but not now... For example, the association.**

The associations.

**Where would you put them in this graph?**

Associations here, municipality. Why? Because we all belong to this municipality, but we have all this, we are in a coffee plantation... We can provide you with all these things.

**Do you think associations are of high or low interest?**

More or less. As I told you...

**We must take a look first.**

First, it is necessary to do a survey and training and that, but so far, it seems to me that there is hope, yes.

**Are there more actors missing?**

Well, those who have the most to do with the field sector. Transport... Storage companies, biomass collectors... Well, the project doesn't seem bad to me, we could achieve something good. As I say, we, coffee growers, are very messy. We have that problem. Before, as they have been teaching us through this association and everything, how... but you still arrive at a property where the man who manages it is already an old person, and he is ingrained in what he has always done, and changing his mindset... Look, my dad was one... We had some vast properties over there in a small town, and he never bought fertilizer, he did from here on this line, to the other side, he made some ditches, I mean, some holes. He made those parts like that, and filled them with the pulp, with all the residues. That was the fertilizer, since at that time no fertilizers were used. And he wants that, on those properties, at that time, they produce the same... Well, he passed away, but he wanted the property to keep producing the same with the same fertilizer. And I said: “Dad, you have to understand that today's environment is not for that” that before everything was healthier... It changes everything, even the products that they sell us bring us pests. So, well, there he already told me...

**Changes...**

Yes, changes are very important, and that is what I tell you, with the association. The Association of Special Coffees has caused many of us to change the way we cultivate, yes, because the way of cultivating is... If we continue with coffee, and we don't do a well-done process to sell it in a cup, sell a differential coffee, we are going to go bankrupt because selling coffee and buying coffee is useless. It doesn't work for us. For instance, currently, we are very happy because we are in a bonanza. It has never been seen selling such expensive coffee but look how much it costs you to produce or raise that coffee with the inputs as they are.

**It also has a high price.**

So, all that is.

**Thank you very much for all the information.**

It is a pleasure.

**I don't know if there is anything you would like to tell more or add.**

How good that, for example, all these projects and all this came to the benefit of the fields. I always talk a lot in that sense because, well, because I'm not going to say no, that leadership is also lacking in many places where you don't get everything you need in a village, which is also that, but when you have the opportunity to deal with people like you, it is very good to ask you, who are in another sphere, in another way of seeing things, and clearly, in more different situations, to pay more attention, for example, to these projects. You are visiting what it is. These fields like this need people like this because you are going to bring us new experiences and, on the other hand, through a well-presented project, you are going to help. A project. I always dedicate myself to the field. We farmers do not need to be given gifts, but to be taught and supported. With that, I have always said, the entities, the field sometimes suffers a lot because the governments, even when there is a good one... But they never go, either. We have suffered more on the roads; we suffer in many things. In that, it will be the only thing, but the rest, I think that each one of us must look for our own way of living, and our space well organized. It was that.

**Thank you very much.**