**F2CF - Interview farmer # 2, female, Santuario, 30 - 22-6-2022**

**Well young lady, thank you, before anything else. My name is [name] and I’m the person who will make you this small interview today. The first thing is consent. This is totally private, it won’t include your name nor anything like that, the information will only be used in the investigation for the purposes of the investigation. I don’t know if you have any question. We are making a recording. I don’t copy that fast so we need the recording. And well, we need of your consent. If at any point you feel like “I don’t know, I don’t understand the question” or anything, don’t worry. We don’t need to have it all so feel relaxed. The idea is to identify the challenges and the ways around farming that you have and so that is the most important. I don’t know if you have any question, any doubt?**

No, none.

**What is your full name?**

[name]

**Well [name], please give us your signature. This is the informed consent for the use of the data.**

Just the signature?

**Yes, just a signature. The idea is, there is a series of questions, very easy and everything is around what you do and such. The first one is what’s your name, what do you do? Any gossip?**

Let’s see. My name is [name]. What do I do? I’m the one in charge of the administration of the plot. I don’t live here but I’m the one that overlooks the supplies and… Yeah, everything related to the administrative area. And that’s what I do. Housewife at home, with my son.

**How old are you?**

Who? Me? 30.

**You are so young!**

I look older.

**This plot, how many hectares does it have?**

6.

**There are 6 hectares? And how many are for coffee, more or less?**

No, that fact [name] is the only one who knows it exactly. But I don’t know.

**What do you do during a normal day home? A normal day when you have to come to the plot. A normal day for you.**

A normal day? When I come to the plot?

**Yes. For example.**

For example, arriving to the plot, checking on the labor to be done. Helping my mom because there are activities she can’t perform anymore. So help her with things at her home. Talking with the workers, with my dad. Checking what is needed, what has happened during the week. Normally I come up here 2 to 3 times a week. Sometimes we leave town at 5 pm, come up here, stay until 8 or 9 pm and we go back. Thank god, the area is very safe so you can move around with no issue.

**How long is it between here and the town?**

One hour, more or less. Even less, sometimes. It could be less depending on the road. If it is summer, 40 to 45 minutes.

**You do so many things in a day. And you have a son, and you are married. You get the best out of the day!**

Yes, a little of everything. A lot. I think so.

**When do you rest? ?What’s the day, or the moment, that you take to rest?**

Weekends. Usually we leave Saturdays and Sundays… Actually, you come here to the plot to rest. For example I come on Sundays and I don’t do anything. We fish, we spend time together here at the plot. Which is resting too, because resting is not only to lay down and stay still but to change of activities. For me that is resting, too. Every 15 days we travel to another municipality.

**Oh, so nice!**

Yes. Like that it is not that slavery. From Monday to Friday, the plot and if in the weekend we come to the plot, we do it as resting because we leave the town, we change the view.

**What is it that you like the most from the plot? What is it that makes you say “I love this”?**

The weather, the calm, the little birds. The atmosphere that you can breathe. And coffee, obviously . All this of seeing what my dad does, his process… All of this is thrilling. I grew up watching this since forever and when… Let’s see, you asked earlier if I got to collect coffee and yes, of course. And we don’t do it because there are no personnel. We do it because we like it. We enjoy it.

**What would you like to change? What would you like to move or change?**

Well, that’s what we spend our time on.

**How come?**

Yes, changing things. Truth is we really like that topic. For example, “oh, this chicken thing we don’t like it there anymore because it is ugly” and as such we spend a lot of times doing that. Moving things. As you could see the beneficio was below where there is a storage unit now. All of that we have been changing. And we also think a lot about biodiversity, meaning not to focus on a single crop.

**Oh, how many crops do you have here?**

Well, we have sugar cane, which you could see there.

**Oh, it is the one at the entrance.**

Exactly, which we currently don’t have how to process it but there is the trapiche, following another path. Following another path but it is still close. Around 15, 20… 20 minutes with the sugar cane load. So, yeah, we like to do different things.

**Then you have sugar cane, you have coffee, what else do you have?**

There is banana although not for selling.

**But there is.**

But there is, banana, in small amounts because the plot is not too big. But the idea is to try to grow some of the food.

**For how long have you owned this plot?**

This one here, if I’m not mistaken, about 9 years. 9 years, yes.

**Here in the plot live you mom and your dad?**

My mom and my dad. And in that little house over there live the employees. Who are the ones in charge of feeding the workers.

**How many workers do you have here, approximately.**

Well, that depends. Depends on the time of the year. If there is a lot of coffee, if the plot is in full production, we have had up to 12, 13. If we are in the middle of the harvest. It is not very constant but yeah, 12, 13.

**Around what time is that?**

October, more or less. May. Depending on the time of the year. And when… For example, now… There has been up to 15 because of the construction work. The beneficios and the storage are being improved.

**And you are the one in charge of the payroll and hiring?**

Yes.

**Oh wow, challenging.**

No, is not like that. Together with my brother. Because we have another sibling and he helps us with these things. But he is out of the country so… He helps us from far away with opinions but usually it is not as if I’m the one who deals with all alone. Each one of us has our own piece of responsibility and we try to work very united.

**And is your son also working and you told me he also harvests and processes.**

Yes. The thing is we say what? Let him learn to love the field. It is hard to think that he will grow to be a farmer in this plot. No. Because the idea is for him to study and… But for him to start to know the coffee process, on how it is collected, how it is processed. He now also knows of tasting. Precisely because the association, asocafe, have as a mission the generational overlap. And when you were around you surely notice that a lot of workers are young, kids from coffee farmers. So we also do it with Santi. “Santi, here a coquito”. With his coquito he wants to go together with his daddy. The thing is that day it went very bad with him, the first time he went with his daddy because he went to one the further areas. And so his grandpa told him to stay in these here but he was like “no, daddy, I want to go with you. I want to go with you”. He put on his boots, his coquito, and went up at 11 am with his red checks and said “no, pay me”. Pay me what? “I’m not working no more”.

**“Pay me because I’m leaving. Why do you like being here ?Why do you say “I like being on the plot, I like helping in the plot”? Why?**

Well, I don’t know. For starters, because my parents are here. I think that’s a very important factor. To get there and find your parents. I don’t know if some day when they’re no longer here I will feel the same joy in arriving. Truth, is I don’t know. For me it is “Oh I will go where my mom is”. That’s the first thing you think. You know you have your responsibility and you have to come to look around, see what is missing, what is needed. Yes, that is fine. But they are the main reason you come here and take care.

**And the ones who *unintelligible* are your parents?**

Yes, of course. All our lives we have been around plots. We grew and left for the cities to study. At least the younger ones who had the chance. We left and studied.

**What did you study?**

Technician in judicial investigation. I was in Pereida studying for about 8 years. I finished high school there. I studied in Santa Juana de Lestonnac and then I later studied the technical career. I also did an auxiliary (course) on systems. I did a couple of things but I don’t know. Roots call you; I think. Because I never struggled to live there during this time and then coming back here.

**It was easy for you?**

Yes, very easy. For me it felt like a relief. Like calm. You know, that city noise and stress.

**From the things you have to do here, what do you say “Oh, I’m good at doing this. If I do this, I know it will be amazing”?**

One thing in particular?

**No. Many. One can do many things nicely.**

What do I do good? Taking the coffee and selling it, no?

**“I know about that”**

I know about collecting the coffee in the car, taking it to sell and generate money. No, lies. This is embarrassing. What do I do nicely? No, I do everything fine, everything.

**And what makes you say “Oh, I don’t feel comfortable with this or I don’t like much doing this” but you have to do it.**

No, look. No, I think everything I do here I do it with lots of love and that makes it be good. No, I don’t see something that… Maybe coming up to the plot when it is raining a lot.

**What would you like to change from what you do during the day? That you would say “No, I need more time for these things or I would like to do other things?**

No… It is not that I’m the most organized woman but regarding time I think I am well organized because… Well, not at this moment. I’m here because Santi is in holidays but if he was at school, I know I would only be able to move around after noon. I would like to maybe have more time to spend more time here in the plot.

**Santi is 8?**

Yes. He obviously studies in the town. Sometimes I would like there was a grandma nearby I could just call to pick up the kid so I can go to the plot. I would love that but it gets complicated when he is studying. So time. I would like to have more time to spend here in the plot. That I would like.

**When you are not here at the plot you told me you go to other municipalities every 15 days. Do you that with your husband, the kid…?**

Yes, with my husband and the kid. We g to visit his parents, who live in Guatica. In Guatica. So we try to be a weekend here and a weekend there, because we have to spend time with them. With both.

**To get up here, you come by what? Jeep?**

No. As means of transportation we have a car and motorcycle. We eventually use the jeep but usually…

**And the roads, how are they?**

They might look a little difficult but since one is used to drive through them it seems normal to us. The think is, you must have a responsible 4x4 vehicle because a normal vehicle can’t get up here. So, yeah. Either on motorcycle or on the car.

**For example, is this place safe? Do you feel calm here, there are no safety issues?**

What I was telling you about sometimes leaving town at 5 pm, getting up here at 6 pm, spending time with them until 8, 8:30 pm and by 9:30, 10:00 pm we are back at the town. So that is also an advantage. Thank god it is very calm.

**There is internet signal here or how does that work?**

We… Yes, we have internet and the Claro network works fine. Movistar is a little harder.

**Do you parents have cellphones? If you need to get in touch with them, they…**

Yes, of course. If the signal sometimes fails, they have Wi-Fi.

**And they communicate easily?**

Yes, of course. And we also see them through the cameras.

**Oh, you have cameras in the house. How wise.**

Yes, of course. You have to be with them even if you are far away.

**So they are here and you see them back home.**

Yeah, something like that.

**If your parents need to require with another region or another plot?**

There is no problem. The signal problem here is, sometimes it is a little bad but it is not that we suffer to much because of that. Yes, they have cellphones, very modern ones. My dad was even asking for the picture with the doll and everything to put as a Facebook post. Everything. My mom even uses WhatsApp.

**Oh my god. There you can gossip.**

Yes, they are updated. And she watches recipes at YouTube. Right, mommy?

**If you want to get access to any information, recipes or you want to learn on new things happening at plots, or with coffee or whatever, they get into youtube, they watch videos on youtube?**

Yes, well, my mom is the one more into the topic. My dad not so much, but my mom does. She has her youtube and she looks for the coffee tortilla or whatever. Right? She is supper modern.

**At the association, do they generate information and they spread it through the farmers or how do they do it?**

In what sense?

**I don’t know, invitations, for example, for an assembly or I don’t know.**

Ah yes, of course. And either way their doors are always open to the members and even if you are not a member. People arrive because they want to learn about tasting, so they go to the association. In the association they can teach you on the topic. They might not be calling you over every day but they always have their doors opened for whatever you might need?

**Has that changed around the last few years? Has the way in which they communicate changed through the last few years?**

Of course. In the association… Yes, of course. And the association has helped a lot in many topics. For example, we learned to drink our own coffee. We were producing our own coffee without knowing how to drink coffee. You can imagine.

**So the producers drink their own coffee?**

Yes, of course. My mom was one of the ones that would say “oh no, coffee causes me insomnia, it is bad for me, coffee whatever…”. And now the audios I get every 15 days on my phone are “my kid, I ran out of coffee, I don’t know what you will do. Bring it to me on your next visit because I’m not able to drink any coffee. And make sure it is from the plot because I don’t like others”.

**Oh, so beautiful. So they also incentive the consumption between farmers.**

Yes, and without sugar. They taught us. I, particularly, only drank Nescafe. With sweetened water. The usual, which is a tasty coffee, because it is not that bad. But to learn to drink what you produce, is something magical. Spectacular. I also… Actually once, together with the association, we did… But I can’t remember… With Solidarity, I believe… We went to different plots and prepare coffee for the farmers and we would make them take in the fragrance, to notice the difference. They were taught on the different roasts. And they were really happy. I think after that more than one ended up drinking their own coffee. Learning to drink what they cultivate.

**Are you involved in social activities, volunteering or things like that?**

No. I was involved with Solidaridad, which is a foundation that has been a lot in Santuario. Before the pandemic we used to have a group. A group of young entrepreneurs. We had a meeting two months ago, I believe, and I was the only one there. We used to be around 40. So it was sad because, well, the pandemic kicked in, we started to connect virtually. But we did use to do very cool meetings. They used to give us plants, trees, for us to work at the plots. It was very nice.

**And regarding the government support. For example support from the major’s office, the delegation… Have you had that, perhaps, or have you heard from the association.**

Yes. From the government, yes, of course. Actually a little ago they delivered machinery to the association for the coffee preparation and you partially feel joy, because since we are members, if the association gets benefited, so do we. Then, yes, you might say that there is support from these organization.

**Do you think that recently the support has changed? Through the last few years has there been more support, less support, how has it been?**

Yes, I think there is more support.

**More support. And has that been achieved by the association or not?**

Yes, of course. Totally. If the association didn’t exist, I don’t think none of this would have been possible. The people that know about the association knows how they started. And thanks to everyone’s work it is what it is today. And I know they can get to be even bigger.

**Do you think that in Santario, or here at home, you can give your opinion. To say “I opine that, I don’t opine that”. Do you feel free to express yourself at any time and at any place?**

Yes, of course. Yes.

**Despite being a woman?**

Despite being a woman, of course. I don’t feel that…

**And the same goes for the association? Can you go and say and hear?**

Yes.

**This house is big. Your parents’ house is very big. How many stories does it have? Is it 2 stories?**

Yes, 2 stories.

**And how many bedrooms are there?**

2 bedrooms. And, downstairs, there are 2 more being constructed. Precisely because it is very big but the space is little. It is all of us so…

**When the house gets filled, how many people can come and fit?**

We’ve been up to 20. But only for a night and putting mattresses around.

**This house has been built by your parents, by you, it has been improved through time…**

This house is new. This house was not here. There was only the house over there, where my parents used to live. And back then my parents… My mom was the one feeding the workers. My mom would sometimes go to the town. We would tell her “mom, don’t work for much longer. It’s been many years. Your kids are already old, we can take care of you. You don’t need to work anymore”. The same went for my dad but they don’t want to listen. We would take my mom; we would keep her 3 or 4 months at the town. She would come and she would go like “no, I want to leave. I don’t care, I’m still capable of working”. She would go back and soon we would have to get her back because of health issues, you know, the normal issues. So one day, with my siblings, we said “It is not possible because there it is only 4 walls and she likes her chickens, her hens, her nature. Let’s build a space only for them”. That’s why it basically only has 2 bedrooms. But then we realized that it is only them but we come and visit. So that was the solution for her to rest from working that much but for her to be here in the plot.

**But this has all of the utilities? Toilets, shower, everything they need?**

Yes, everything. Two bathrooms. Everything, thank god.

**Electricity gets here?**

Yes.

**Normal water, drinking water?**

Spring water.

**Oh, it is spring water?**

Yes.

**It is from here from the plot?**

Yes. Oh, no. It is not at this plot but higher up.

**But it reaches here?**

Yes.

**And have you had problems with water, with energy?**

Sometimes with water. Then the weather is heavy, when it rains a lot, yes. My dad goes every morning like “wife, we are waking up without water”. That’s why you can see these containers, to keep a reserve. But it is not that we go 2 days without water. No, no. Never.

**Do you communicate with your parents every day?**

Yes, of course.

**You call them every day, every day you ask them how they are, how did they sleep? Plus the camera, that’s a very good one.**

And they also sell some with audio. At home I have some with audio because when I’m not at home I go “Santiago, close that door!”. Yes, those are important.

**Here you have all the services. Internet, water, electricity. Do you watch television? Do your parents watch television? Do they listen to the radio?**

Yes. That, too. My mom listens to *La voz de Nariño* because they are from Nariño, Antioquia. My brother came and because there is internet here, he showed her “look mom, you get in through here”, and she is happy.

**Oh, he taught her to log in to internet lo listen to *Nariño*.**

Yes, *La voz de Nariño* because it is in Nariño, Antioquia. So my mom looks for the streamer and with the phone she connects it to the speaker via Bluetooth and goes all day listening to…

**Wait, wait, wait. Your mom… How old is she? I mean, your mom uses better than me the phone.**

They taught her and she learnt.

**How old is she now?**

She is 68. If I’m not wrong.

**Your mom gets connected to internet, she connects the phone to Bluetooth and listens to the radio?**

Yes. During morning, at 6 in the morning, the plays the mass in that speaker, full volume.

**The service for all of the…**

Yes.

**How important is this to you? To be here, at this natural environment, for you, for your family. How important is it for you to be like this at this space, in this environment?**

Very. I could say that for me, to be here is everything. You know? When I’m here I feel like I have everything. I come up here with my family, gather with my parents and to be all together at a space like this one. You can’t ask more from life.

**And how is the weather here? Does it rain? Is there a lot of sun?**

This weather has been crazy. Around this time of the year it is supposed to be summer, summer. But it has been raining heavily. But still the weather is warm. It doesn’t get too cold, nor too hot. It is a weather that, for my own taste, is very good.

**The fertilizers… Do you use fertilizers? How often do you add them?**

In that topic the expert is my dad. But it is not like we use them too constantly. The manure, yes, we add manure three times a year. That’s clear. And aside from that, what we use for weeds and such is the sickle. If there is the case when there is a weed with a very strong stem, they use weed killers. But only in the patch that is needed. It is not as if they use chemicals in all of the plot because, well, that’s not the point.

**If there is… I don’t know, if someone steals a banana or there is any conflict, or something like that, how do you solve this with the neighbors, with other areas?**

Up until now it hasn’t happened.

**It is too calm here?**

Yes, too calm. As an example, my dad sometimes grows corn, the *choclo*, and then… A small patch for summer, a small patch for summer. So I think there is no need to be stolen from because we share. Yes. If someone needs… For example, here we grow mandarins or avocados. A little but they have they producing months and people know. “Oh, Mr. José, are you going to give me some?”, “Of course, my child, help yourself”. Then there is no need for…

**You share everything. I also saw you have a crops garden. I saw a crops garden…**

Yes. Which is actually a little sad but it is there. We planted onions and we told the worked that if he wanted, he could use it to grow his crops there.

**MUSIC**

**They are partying.**

How ashaming.

**Why did you decided to buy this land? 9 years ago you came here but why did you decide on that?**

Because we have always lived in plots. We used to live in Nariño, Antioquia. Right?

**Oh so you came to Santuario 9 years ago?**

No, more years but we used to leave in a different place, in a different area, at another plot. Smaller than this one. We still have it…

**Oh so you have two plots?**

Yes. The one there… And we used to live there. And not to brag but my family was very hard working, we had that little plot busy, with a very good production, there was some money so they discussed on buying something. I was already at Pereida studying, my other brother was also studying… Dier and Hugo were studying and there were other ones, the oldest ones, working here with my parents.

**How many of you are there?**

4 men and 3 women.

**You are 7, you are plenty!**

Yes.

**And all of you are involved somehow with the plot?**

Well, no, not everyone. It is mostly my brother Dier, Eddy, and myself. Because we have another brother outside of the country. Well, I have two that are out of the country but one can come every 6 months. The other one is in France, as an illegal, so he can’t come. It has been 4 years but oh well. And that’s it. My sister has… my two other sisters live in the city but they go by their own thing. They come and visit but the ones directly in charge on things related to the plot are myself and my two siblings.

**For you, coffee growing, specifically from coffee growing, what is the hardest thing**?

What is the hardest thing from cultivating?

**Processing, collecting it, producing it?**

Maybe… The hardest… The hardest is when we start to experiment on the topic, was maybe the process. But in the growing itself, no, it is a very thankful plant and it accepts what you give it. SO if you treat it nicely, you give it manure, and if the weather helps…

**It goes up.**

It goes up, yes. I don’t think it is too complex. When the association told us “Come, there is a way to give an added value to your coffee. We are going to do some processes”. But then you can’t do it for more than certain hours because the embryo will die. And it is during that part that it seems hard. But despite that, my dad learnt. You could see that he does his processes.

**Yes, he handles the machine and everything. Is he the one that does everything here?**

Yes. But if you ask me, for me the hardest part is to operate that machine and to do everything he does.

**And he is 71 years old?**

71 years old. For me that is very hard but for him it is a ride in the park. The people that came from Bogota to install it explained to him and, well, for him this machine is a very big benefit because, if you noticed, it has the winnower and beforehand he used to use a string and mount a winnower manually. And to move it starting at 4 am with that. But not anymore.

**Now the machine does it.**

Yes, now the machine does it. And he is still getting up at 4 am but he doesn’t need to do that much effort.

**Economically, do you think it is viable to have a coffee plot?**

Yes, of course.

**It is viable? What does it depend on? Because there are people that says “This doesn’t provide, it is not enough”, why?**

Well, I sometimes think that we… that, at plots, we are not organized in those topics. We have learned to organize a little, to calculate the expenses… But usually on the countryside one usually goes by the day. Day by day. So one doesn’t know how to manage his enterprise, how to manage the plot. You should treat it as your company. It is not as simply saying “Ah, yes, my plot. 4 coffee trees and whatever they produce is fine”. No. I don’t know if I’m annoying with the association topic, but with them we have generated an added value for the coffee. Because they came and said “Come here, let’s see how good your coffee is and if it is good, you will get paid better”.

**If my coffee… They grade it, to say it somehow. If you get wise and generate a good coffee, they pay you more?**

Yes, because it depends of the cup. So these are incentives to…

**Oh, well, then I become wise!**

Yes, of course. Anyone would be wise. Then, it is an added and economic value, which is the most important.

**And do you save? For example, you are currently saving or is it common for a coffee grower to save? Or not?**

I don’t know if the other but we do. We actually have a designed account that was opened by one of my siblings but is known that what goes inside is the plot’s money. In the agenda it is written as La Linda Plot’s account.

**Oh so you have a notebook where you write everything.**

Yes, of course. I have a notebook, files. I write down everything because the memory doesn’t help. I’m already old. No, just kidding. But yes, we have registers of how many…

**You are very wise.**

I have the registers of how much was spent on the construction, approximately because there are many things that get lost. But if you try to carry on in a more organized…

**Do you currently have bank loans?**

Yes, of course. For one to work without loans, that’s impossible. All of this you are seeing comes from help from the banks. Yes, you can’t deny that. We have a loan at the agricultural bank and another one in Davivienda bank.

**Thinking, for example, of… What would you like that would made you say “oh I would love to buy this and put this on the plot…”. Like what? What would that be? What would you be interested in if I told you, here is the money what do you want to buy? What do you crave?**

What do I crave?

**Look over there and get cravings! Get cravings!**

If you would ask my son he would ask for a pool with a slide. We don’t… Truth is that I, as entrepreneurship, have been meditating for a while, not alone but with my siblings, about implementing tourism. Because there is a lot of people who is not familiar with coffee.

**The process…**

The process. The chicken. For us, all of this is too normal…

**But for others as tourists…**

Exactly. Therefore, the idea would be to implement little things to attract tourism. What would that be? I don’t know. We are currently at a building that could maybe be adapted… I call this the penthouse, to these four walls here. I say “this is my penthouse”. Because one day I will have it with a very beautiful bed, a jacuzzi… The other day I was telling Eddy… I told him “Oh, Eddy, a jacuzzi for when the tourists come”. He said “What jacuzzi? We have everything because we have coffee”. Then I told him “Ok, let’s use the jacuzzi as a barrel”. No, maybe because of that I would like to implement and organize a camping area here and a coffee station where people could come and look at the products. And to have not only coffee from ours but also from coffee farmers who have their own brands.

**Are there producers that have a brand?**

Yes. Now that will be going with Alfredo, they have a brand called *El futuro.* Mr. José and Sergio have one called *Finca el Sinaí,* which is from the plot here upfront. It is called Finca el Sinaí. And thanks to the association we have *invima.* So, no… There is a lot to dream about.

**A question. Are you and your husband educated?**

My husband, he builds the coffee at the cooperative. He works with the coffee growers’ cooperative.

**And has he always worked here?**

In the Risaralda one he’s been there, I don’t know if, 4 years in the cooperative. But previously, he had been 10 years in *La del valle* one. In *La del valle* cooperative. *Café occidente*, I don’t know. I think that’s its name. But yeah. Did he study university? No, no. But neither did I. We have technical studies.

**What do you think it is the ability that others recognize on you? What knowledge, what abilities, what thing is it?**

Well, here they require me for everything. I am the errand girl at this house.

**They need you for the errands.**

Yes. Sometimes they ask me, sometimes I would even feel frustrated, “Well, what do you work on”? And I was left wondering what I do, right? How do I name what I do? I’m doing things all day. And one day a man was making me angry because I was there at an agricultural store, where they sell supplies and such, and I was paying off some money I owed. Because sometimes I would ask them to send me something to the plot because I was not able to go. And they write down your tab because they know you from all lifelong in the town, right? And I was there paying when a bold guy comes to me and asks me “What do you do that I see you around everyday paying money?”. And I told him “What do you mean?”. And he said “Yeah, I always see you up and down. What do you do? What do you work on?”. And I was really trying to understand this man’s question, wondering what was he implying because I don’t have a profession written on my face. I do so many things but I don’t see it as “oh, my occupation is…”. No, the errands girl from the Ramos and that’s it. And as I told you, a little frustrating. But an ability that I could say is that in my family I’m characterized by being the one that is always there for the others. For anything. If I need to go pick up coffee, I’ll go. If I need to… No, better said…

**Whatever you are requested.**

Yes…

**The solution girl.**

Yes, I think so. Not to brag but ask anyone.

**For your kids… For you, how important is education? How important is it for them to get educated, instructed? In the case, for example, of your kid.**

A lot. A lot. Of course. We have… Santiago, since he was very young, despite sometimes it is very difficult… For me it is sometimes very difficult… When he gave his first steps, when the pandemic first arrived when the kid had to speak to the computer… No, it was not the same. But of course, it is too important. I do tell him to go with his grandpa to pick up coffee but that is not because my dream is for him to do that. For him to always pick up coffee. No. I don’t want him to ever forget his grandparents’ roots. His parents’, his uncles’. Me teaching him about the plot doesn’t mean I don’t want him to study. Maybe tomorrow he’ll be an agronomist, I don’t know.

**And what does he say he wants to be?**

Santi says he wants to be a constructor so I have been teaching him about engineering. So now he says he wants to be a civil engineering because Santiago… I don’t know if these are the engineers that build but I told him “Well, I don’t know my love, if you want crafts that’s fine”. Because his dream is to build houses, castles, and if I leave my guard down, I go downstairs to the living room and the furniture is on top of each other because he is building a building. I imagine he might change. He might change his mind but he is very passionate about construction. And since he grew up seeing things being built, he says “Oh, here I would like a window. Here I would like a…”.

**Oh, ok. He is deciding where things should be.**

Yes. He has a very good imagination for that. And my brother unintelligible outside of the country. This is a story that I think is very cute and very beauty… well, I don’t know… he was leaving.

**Which one? Eddy?**

No, my brother, Hugo Ney. And he had some coins in a small bag. So I… 8 days after he had left, I went to check his closet and the little bag with the coins was in there with a little note that I still keep, and it said “For my Santi. For him to open his own saving account for him to save for his university”. So I said, “wow. Santi, look what you uncle left you”. I took it immediately to the bank and the card was emitted under Santiago’s name. He has it in Davivienda. And if you go and tell him “Santiago, here you go 2 000”. He says “Mommy, can you put in my account for my university?”. And he asks me if… And the uncle said… Or, well, he then called his uncle and said “thank you a lot for …” I don’t remember how much it was in those coins. But I also had some piggy banks for him and I would tell him “Look, they had this much, I’ll put it in the savings account”. We sign together. He has his card. Sometimes he has a strong craving “Oh, mommy, what if we get some money from my university account for me to buy this thing?”. He wanted an electric bike and that is expensive. Therefore I told him “No, we can’t. I will help you save and one day when we have money, we can get it”. And he said “oh, ok. Then for Christmas”. So now he has two accounts. He puts 2 000 in one and saves 1 000 for his electric bike. He says that to help baby Jesus because I told him they were expensive and he said “Then I will help baby Jesus”. So the uncles come down and give him 2 000, give him 1 000 and the knows. “Mommy, look, for the university and 1 000 for my electric bike”.

**He has been… And was that taught to you?**

No, actually not.

**So where did he become so wise with money?**

Oh but we did. We did teach him. I think we grew in different generations. When… When we… I think that back then there even wasn’t anything to save because, well, imagine my mom and dad with 7 kids, how could they say “save these coins”. Specially where we used to live. Coins were for the sugar and the potato. So now, thank god, they have more opportunities than us but you can’t give them everything. He is an only child. And my siblings, well… one doesn’t have kids, the other is a priest, so he doesn’t have kids either. And regarding children in this family, Santiago is the only kid. We have another nephew but he is too old. If we let Santiago to grow in that environment, no. We want to teach him to study, god may provide. We try to teach him; we don’t know what my happen in the way. For him to study. Yes, very important. He can be whatever he wants but he must do something.

**At this moment, are you happy with your life? In this moment of your life, are you happy?**

Yes, a lot.

**Did you envision yourself like this ten year ago? Did you see yourself living here? How did you used to see yourself?**

I saw myself as a police woman. And that’s why I studied judicial investigation. But it went nothing like that. Yes, exactly 10 years ago. No, less. 12 years ago I used to say I would be a police woman. That’s why I left the plot. I left to look for… because I used to say that I wanted to be in the police. But then things happened. Things that disappointed me and I realized that this was not it. That was not the way. I went back and it was hard. It was hard for me not going back together to my parents. For me it was very hard not having gone through that path I wanted in order to get to my police goal. Where do you seek for refuge? With your parents. I am the youngest and when I came back my siblings used to tell me, they were paying off this plot, “No, don’t get disappointed, don’t get disappointed. You can go later to university. We don’t have (money) right now”. I used to say I wanted to study laws. “Give us some time because this plot was paid with sweat. It was not that they had the money to pay it right away. It was owed. Everyone was stuck here working. I say “stuck” because at that time my dad and one of my brothers who were living at the plot wouldn’t come to town in order to not spend money. Because what we would sell… One would only get out to sell the coffee and buy food. Everything else had to be saved to pay. This complements the question about saving. Of course they save. Of course we need to learn to save. Because if we don’t save, how are we going to obtain things? Between saving and a small loan in banks, which sometimes people is afraid of. But I sometimes think that without that you can’t escape. I have that feeling.

**What do you feel proud about? At this time of your live what can you say you feel proud about?**

I am proud of… my kid, I think that’s the best title for it. At the beginning it was a sadder title, I think, because I was pregnant of Santi when… When I came to Pereida, I met Santiago’s dad… That’s where it becomes depressive. My parents and my siblings told me to wait a year and after they had paid a good amount from the plot, because a lot was owed, and then I could go back to Pereida to study. To stay there for a while. At that time I didn’t see that as a bad idea but around then I met Santiago’s dad and I ended up pregnant. That’s where it stopped. That’s where the university plan stopped. But to this point I don’t regret anything because as I told you, Santiago is this house’s joy.

**Well, everyone wants to be with him. He is so wise. And the grandpa loves him.**

Yes. I think god knows how he makes things. At the time the police thing was a hard blow for me. A very hard blow. And after that I wanted to obtain a university diploma. But then god put me… Well, god and myself, I obviously can’t put all the blame on god. But he put me on this path and nowadays I think god does things for a reason. I’m the one looking after my parents, who always comes up to check what do they need, the one who is always at the town, where they can go to. Because the other ones, I’m not going to say it is not also my case, but the others have very independent lives. Despite having my life, my husband, my home, I can be everything at once. I can be a mom; I can be a sister and I live happily. Sometimes people tell me “How come you don’t get tired” and I say that it doesn’t matter because what I do, I do it with love. And my brothers come on Saturdays. On Saturdays everyone comes down from the plot.

**Meaning yours is the meeting point**

Yes. Everyone arrives there “Hi! I’m going to change my boots”. I am happy. What can I say? I’m happy with the way I live because thanks to god I have all of my family. I’m close to my siblings, to my parents.

**In this house, for example, to make decisions you all sit down, everyone talks together but who is the one with the last saying?**

The last saying? Most of the times it is not always the same. For example, sometimes my dad calls me and tells me “Come, my kid, there is this thing that have to be done. What do we do or how do we do it” and sometimes I don’t know because for plot related stuff I usually called my brother Eddy. Then I ask Hugo on what to do. So we talk between all of us and everyone brings up ideas. And that’s when my dad can choose. We say “Oh, we can do this and this” and in that moment someone else says “oh, yes, I agree”.

**And it goes.**

And it goes. So it is not that it goes exactly as my dad says. Sometimes it is good for there to be only one boss and for there to be only one person making the decisions. Because otherwise people say it can be confusing and well, that might be true but it hasn’t happened to us. Sometimes someone asks something to my dad and he goes “oh, that I don’t know. That I have to ask Maria” or I say “Oh, for that I need to call Hugo to see what does he think”. We try to communicate.

**To agree, to communicate. Ok. If you were told to change something in your life, whatever it is, what would it be? At this time of your life, what would you change in your life? From where you currently are.**

From my life? What do I change? No, I don’t know. I have never thought of that. No, the thing is this is coming at a wonderful time of my life.

**What about health? Fine?**

Fine.

**Regarding food, have you ever had problems here, where you might say “oh, we don’t anything to eat” or…**

Oh, no. Thanks god, up to now, no. No.

**Ok. Regarding health, your parents being sick lately or…**

Neither.

**Thank god. It is very important for parents to be healthy!**

Yes, of course. Maybe my dad sometimes gets some issues with his bones but he immediately goes down to get treatment. We try to be very… in those topics.

**And in Santuario they have health (services)?**

Yes. They have the EPS with a subsidy. The rest of us pay for it.

**And regarding health what do you think you might need or what things are missing? That you might say “oh, this is not in Santiago and it would be cool for it to be here”? For example in health or education?**

Well, in education there are many things missing. For example English courses for kids. That would be very important. In health, we can’t complain nor being ungrateful because the hospital does as much as it can and outside of that, there are specialized services.

**And for health do you need to go to Santuario? Pereida? Usually if you need of a specialist, it is in Pereida?**

Yes.

**And is it easy? Is it hard? The transport there.**

The transportation is easy.

**It is easy?**

Yes. There are buses leaving constantly, yes.

**For example, where do you do groceries?**

In Santuario. At the town. For my parents. For me I do groceries in Pereida.

**Oh, you do shopping in Pereida?**

Yes, I do shopping in Pereida. Truth is that yes.

**Why?**

I don’t know, I like it. I think it is cheaper because I buy larger amounts. Despite that in my house we are relatively few…

**How many are there at your house?**

Eddy lives with us. The house is big and he lives in the third floor but he eats there. Eddy, my husband, the kid… like 5 but there are always more than 5. There are always more than 5. We always have visitors.

**Unintelligible**

Exactly. Yes, so the cost is nice. You can find large sizes and cheap. For here, for the plot, we do buy at San Isidro. We are loyal clients.

**You mom has preferred brands asking for you to get for her?**

Yes, of course.

**She already knows what she likes.**

Yes. I have been doing groceries already for years so I know. And people in the supermarket, too.

**Oh, in the supermarket they know what is for her?**

Yes. I call them and tell them “oh, this is for the plot”. Sometimes I don’t even go to do the groceries. I write to them via WhatsApp.

**Regarding your diet, do you think it is balanced? Do you eat bad? Or do you eat little of this or that?**

No, I eat plenty.

**At plots people eat plenty.**

Yes, at the plots. I have periods. I don’t know. I think that I maybe feed myself wrongly.

**Why is that?**

Because at 10 or 11 I get hungry and I go get food. Whatever there is.

**Oh but that is feeding very well! Here it is normally the breakfast, the half-morning…**

The breakfast. Let’s say that yes. The lunch…

**The lunch…**

Which I haven’t had today.

**Today we don’t eat, today we are on a diet. The half-afternoon?**

Ah yes, that lady is looking funny at me.

**Oh, right, because they usually have lunch at 2.**

Exactly, yes, and it is…

**It is 1 pm! Oh, no. We are almost done; we are almost done. Do you think that… Do you think that there is hope, that things can still improve, that everything can become better?**

Yes, of course.

**If you feel you are worried about something, who do you talk with?**

With my husband. Yes, of course. Or with my dad… Or with my mom… Or with Eddy. Yes. I have my family circle, you could say.

**Neighbors. Let’s say, the closest neighbor, how far away is it walking?**

Oh, there is a neighbor close by, here 3 minutes away.

**Going up the slope?**

No, going down.

**Going down?**

Now, do we ever visit them? No.

**They don’t know you know they are there.**

Yes. But the good thing is that you don’t feel it that way. If you need a favor, anything, maybe a machine or something… But it is not as if I’ll go visit for a while. No, there is no time. Here you don’t see… I think that is partially a habit, to go visit neighbors. But despite that lack of being at one another’s place and such, well, the relationships are nice.

**If you have to give an instruction to the workers or something, when do you meet with them? Or how do you do to transmit the information?**

Well, for us it is through my dad because he is the one always here. So we call him “daddy, this thing” and then he coordinates them.

**So wise. And do you organize… are the workers here all day or how does that work? How is it with them? Do they live here?**

Yes. The ones here, they do live here. Because some of them are the feeders. They are from the same family so we give them the work and they live in the same house. Another one is a cousin from Nariño, Antioquia, and he has been around for a long time, years, working with us. And he also lives here.

**And for workers the resting time is Sunday?**

Well, on Saturdays there are off early and they have Sundays. And if needed, if they need to do some errands or something, they are also off.

**Regarding residues and now arriving towards what we are working, what residues do you generate?**

The coffee one.

**The coffee one only? And regarding organic waste, what do you do with it?**

Mommy, that you throw to the garden, right? Peels and potatoes… Right? All of that.

**Yes. You throw it to the garden?**

Yes. And regarding the other thing, there is not. You see? The ideas escape my mind. Recycling issues would be very important. For example, sometimes these big things you try to take them to the town but sometimes you have to dig a whole and bury it.

**Bury it.**

Yes, because there is no garbage pick up here.

**There is no garbage pick-up service here?**

No.

**I see. And if you were given the option to someone picking up the residues, for example, the peels from the machine and this one generated there and they told you there is an option to sell it, would you sell it?**

Of course. Well, I think we would because at the end… You might say you don’t get an use out of it, even though you do, as fertilizer; but sometimes it is too much quantity. And see where it ends up? You were able to see it yourself. So if there is someone who is willing to take the pulp away, why not?

**And regarding transportation, how could it be done? What can you think of? Getting out together with the coffee or…?**

No, I imagine that it wouldn’t be together with the coffee. Because coffee is considered a food and I don’t think we should get it out together.

**But it can be taken out the same way, with the jeep.**

Ah, yes. In the jeep, of course.

**Meaning a load of residues and…**

Exactly.

**And if they tell you, we are going to pick up the residue. For example, picking up the mucilage. Would you be able to save it, to store it, or how do you imagine that could be?**

Well, yes. Either way, that would be at the pit. It is a matter of knowing how it is needed and to see if that is possible. If it can be done then perfect.

**And what would you need for you to sell it?**

In what sense?

**What adaptations would you have to do in the plot or what would you need to change? What would you have to do?**

Well, that all depends on how they might need it and at the time of the year because if it is immediately, we de-pulp and…

**And it just sits there.**

Exactly. Or if they say it can be left there and picked up every two months, for example. It all depends on the conditions they have. For example, if that was daily, as an example, that would be complicated because not that much would be produced. Because the plot is not that large.

**Do you know more or less how much is generated?**

No, not really. Weekly… No, truth is that fact is complicated.

**Do you think these investments are truly reimbursed, for example this machine, the pit… does that work? That type of investments, that are not that common?**

Initially we… Now we see it, that it has helped in two factors. The one I mentioned on reducing the workload to my dad and…

**Which is good.**

Very important, of course. Very important. The second, we have noticed that the quality has improved a lot.

**Really?**

If we have a good quality, we get a better price. Of course. We realized in the past days. We sell both at the cooperative and the association. Previously, the association wouldn’t buy clean cups so we would take the best there. The ones we knew where the best. In the past days, not that long ago, we took a lot to the cooperative because we wanted to sell *Futuro*, because we have *Futuro* at the cooperative and because it is the one that… it is not that it is bad, but it has never been enough for a cup. And from the cooperative someone came to do the tasting process and a sample of our coffee was sent. And it passed with an amazing cup. And why is that? And it is thanks to all the changes that we have applied to the process. All of that impact. So it might be that it won’t be recovered in one or two years, that is impossible. But it is an advantage that will last for many years. So, yeah, maybe there is hope. But in terms of quality of life it has improved. For my dad.

**It is a long-term investment because…**

And environmental because, I don’t know how to properly explain you, I don’t know if Eddy explained you, about the water savings.

**Yes. Well, the idea of what we want to do is, there are residues, right? This is plant, a collection center where many things can be generated, right? A bio-oil, a bio-fuel…**

This exists?

**This is one of the ideas we have. To identify… You have some residues and they can be transformed, for example, to carbon that can be utilized as fertilizer, or to this which is some kind of tar, which we can use. And all of these things can be used for different things. In planes, in boats, for adhesives, for plastic. There is a lot of potential that could be generated but we have to start by understanding how to generate the link between here to the project, right? To an idea that is emerging. That we are working. And do you think that, for example, selling your residues would improve your condition, the plots condition, the plots capabilities?**

Yes. I think so. Of course. I can imagine that for all people here that would be an extra income. In first place it would be an income. And what else do you want that pulp for? It doesn’t do anything here? Relatively nothing. It would have an added value. Very important. What do you do with the pulp? “Oh, we sell it to a company that does this and that helps the growth…”

**Do you think that if we start buying the pulp from you, which is your main issue, do you think that other producers would also be interest if it can be sold?**

Yes. Totally. I think so.

**We are almost at the last phase of the interview. You will be able to go have lunch.**

No, don’t worry, I’m not hungry even though I didn’t have such a good breakfast today.

**Oh, please don’t tell me that. I’m killing you of hunger. Here there is different information. All of the questions we have asked you are related to education, your housing, where you are, where you live, and the idea is for you to put them, according to your criteria, as the most important, in order of relevance, for you. So the most important would be this one that has 6 and the least important would be this one with one. Let’s put it down here in the floor for you to have fun. So, for example, how important is education for you? A six. Your house. How important it is for you to have your house in good condition?**

Oh, that’s a six.

**Relationships with others?**

Oh no, all of them are six.

**Ok, ok. Let’s put all of them in six. This is public participation as in participating in politics, decision making, that kind of things?**

No, somewhere around 4.

**Taking care of the environment? How important?**

Well, for me it is very important. That we don’t do it too much…

**Ok. Health? Physical, well-being?**

Totally.

**Safety?**

What type of safety?

**Safety as in you are able to move around without anything bad happening to you?**

Six. That is very important. Imagine if we weren’t able to come up to the plot?

**Leisure and recreation? To have those spaces to get distracted. As you said, to have those Sundays and those trips. All of that, how important is that?**

Very important.

**From six to…**

Six.

**Done. Mental health? To be calmed and happy with what you are doing? Six?**

Six. No, all of them are six because…

**Everything is very important.**

Of course.

**Work? To feel satisfied with what you do with your work? Six?**

Six.

**Self-determination. For example you are a very confident person, also regarding what you do. How important is that?**

Very.

**Six? Five? Six. Regarding nutrition, meaning feeding, food security… How important is that for you?**

Also.

**Also 6.**

The thing is that if you don’t eat you can’t work.

**Mobility. The area of mobility. How important is it here in the plot?**

Also six. Even more given the distance.

**What would you like to add? What is something particular about this plot? What would you highlight? That you might say “We do things differently because of this”.**

Let’s see… Well, maybe I would think that we are different by something I think is very important. Which is the treatment and atmosphere at work. We always try for these people who help us on the collection and the growth of the plot to have a good working environment, a good nutrition, a good place to sleep, because without them it all wouldn’t be possible. You might have many ideas and wish es but if there is no one to work with… I’m not trying to say that they are bad at other plots but I do know that we distinguished by this because we try to for them to have social well-being. For them to have their television, if there is a soccer match, they can see it, for the barracks to be in good conditions. Actually, when there is a lot of people, we try to separate them “Come here. Do you smoke weed?”, because there are many who do, so we can separate them from the ones who don’t smoke.

**So it won’t be uncomfortable for the other.**

Yes. So I think that in that topic… If you go to other plots… and it is understandable that they cannot do it because those other plots are too large and how are they going to deal with that? We have given ourselves that luxury because the plot is smaller and since we do have that possibility, we think it is very important for us to provide a good work environment.

**Ok. Is there something you want to add? What did you think of the interview? To cry for?**

No, despite being noon I’m not going to cry. Everything was very good. Delightful.

**This was all. Thanks a lot. The information you gave us is very important, very valuable. It is what I was telling them. One thing is what the book says but the insights that you provide are more important.**

Of course. And if there is something you might need during the development of your project that we can help with from here, let us know.

**Both speaking at the same time. Hard to identify what they are saying**