**F21CC - Interview farmer #21, female, cocoa, Belalcazar, 72 - 21-7-2022**

**I would like to confirm in the recording that you agree on doing this interview that you know we will be using the information and that we won’t use your…**

Yes, yes.

**Is it ok?**

Yes. I’m ok with it, yes.

**Ok. Thanks a lot for your time. Maybe you could start with a personal introduction. What is your age? Who do you live with?**

I live with him. It’s been 17 years since I live with him. My kid’s dad died. Two years later I got together with this man and I moved in with him. We were at a different plot because after I widowed, this daughter of mine is married, she left her husband, and so I was with them because they wouldn’t leave me alone. I was with them, then this man got there to work and we got to know each other and then a year later he told me he wanted us to move in together. And I was shocked. I am alone. I was used to being alone. And so we went to work. We came here, we were here for 2 months. He didn’t have money nor did I. So we were here, for what? One or two months and we went to the Tonito, a small plot was made available and we went there. And it turned out fine. Unintelligible, we are going to keep working. We went, we got a good plot, we moved close to the town. We were the for two years, we worked hard, we got some money and I told him, “if you love me you will come with me to the plot”. We arrived together and we left together. We organized; we told the helper we were going to leave. He told me “No, [name], I’m very used to you. Why are you leaving?”. Look, if you are living with a person, even if you pay them, they don’t do things the same way you do it. He said he agreed and I told him to go to give a look to the plot so he could see how done it is. So done. I told him “we are leaving to work” and he said he agreed. He joined and we came here. We started to work and work. And we have made it, more or less. We don’t have to go out to work elsewhere, in order to earn the food.

**Ok. How old are you?**

72.

**72. And for how long have you lived in that house?**

Somewhat about 15 years.

**15 years. Ok. And how many hectares does this plot have?**

It is missing a small piece to get to the 5 blocks.

**And that is more or less 2 hectares? 2 hectares, right?**

The thing is I don’t know how much that is.

**Ok. So, 5 blocks.**

Yes, we are missing a quarter for the 5 blocks.

**Ok. Yes, yes. So you have cocoa, banana…**

Bananas and some coffee.

**Ok. And you told me before you are replacing coffee with cocoa?**

Yes, because, before, everything here used to be coffee. But now that it is getting warmer you start doing bad with coffee. So we have been changing coffee for cocoa. And now, with the cocoa we are doing a little better, at least.

**Oh, you do? How come?**

Because, at least, it produces more. It produces a little more. Either if it it a little or more but every 15 days you harvest. You get a small @, half an @, or two small @s. We start to store it and when it is time to do go groceries we take it with us, we sell it and we do decent groceries. We then come back and recollect. We keep on working and repeat. We come and we harvest, we collect it. And when the things we have in the kitchen run out, we go again to do groceries.

**Are you part of the association?**

Yes.

**Since when?**

I think that… It’s been a while. Yes.

**Why are you…**

In the association?

**In the association, yes.**

Because it is better to be associated rather than not being associated. Because there are times in which, just like one… We cannot say that you are able to sustain yourself every day, you have… You need of other every day. Every day. There are times when help is available and by being associated you get that support.

**Ok. A support…**

Yes, there are times when there are supports. Yes.

**Can you describe your activities in a regular day? At what time do you get up? What is it that you…**

I sometimes get up at 5:30

**5:30**

5:30. 6 am. You get up, take a shower and organize for the day. You come to the kitchen to light the fire, to prepare the beverages, to prepare the breakfast. Clean the house. You then have breakfast and then you go to feed the animals you might have. Following, you go and think on what you will prepare for lunch. If you need to wash something, you wash something. Organize the house. Yes.

**And do you also work in the plot?**

Me? No. I’m not allowed in the plot anymore.

**But before, you used to?**

Yes, before I used to. Yes. Before I would get up somewhere around 5 am or 4:30. I would get up first and I would prepare breakfast. And what I used to do was to prepare for lunch… prepare food. Sometimes I would wait for him to come have breakfast. We would have breakfast and we would leave. Other times I would organize myself, we would go and then we would come to have breakfast. We would come back to close the house and leave for work. Then we would come back for lunch, would rest here for a while and then we would go back to work until 4:30 or 5 in the afternoon.

**But now, it is more work at home.**

I used to leave a lot of the house chores on the side in order to go to work with him. To be able to make it. Since there was no money to pay for a worker, I would do the worker role. And then on Saturday and Sunday I would clean the house. Organize. Everything I wouldn’t do during the week; I would do it Saturday and Sunday.

**And who works at the plot? Your husband?**

Yes, and this girl.

**Ok, she does, too?**

Yes. Don’t you see the worker vibe?

**And do you also hire workers?**

Very rarely because they say “what we might have to pay for a worker, is there for us for food”.

**Ok. What is it that you enjoy from your activities?**

From my activities? Cooking. I’m happy cooking.

**That is what…**

Yes.

**How did you learn to work in the plot? The activities that you do.**

Oh, by looking.

**By looking?**

Yes, I would look, because I was raised in a plot. In the plot I would see my siblings and my dad. I remember I would tell my mom “how nice going to pick up coffee”. My brothers wouldn’t let me.

**No?**

No, they would say no. But what we did have to do was, for my mom to cook and we would help her, and what we did have to do was to clean for them. She would pack our fresh lunches; she would pack it for us and we would take it to them. Then, we would come back and we would have to do the chores we had to do. My mom would cook lunch, she would pack it and we would again take it to them.

**Since you were little?**

Yes, since I was a kid. I would look at them doing the job, which I liked, but they wouldn’t let me do it. Later, with my kids’ father, I would help him out. Sometimes, because he didn’t like it either. No. So, with this man, when we realized we were going to get the plot I told him “No. I will help you out. I will collaborate with you to set the plot faster. What you would pay to a worker, we keep it to buy supplies we could need for the coffee, to apply it to the plot”. And then he would say yes and I would go to work with him.

**Did you go to school?**

But I barely study one and a half year. First grade elementary and half a year of the second grade.

**And you then went to help?**

Helping at home, yes.

**In this house, do you have access to electricity, water and other utilities?**

Yes. It has water, energy and we have utilities.

**And internet? Is there also internet?**

No, not that.

**And network for calling?**

Yes. That we do have. Over there, there are some phone tables.

**Are there some other things or utilities that you would like to also have here?**

One might want it but it is not possible.

**Do you feel safe in this house, in this community?**

Yes. Yes. Around here it is very nice. Around here you live very calmly. Around here it is not a worry that we have to go to bed early because if we are out here someone could find us and threat us. No, no.

**This plot, is it your property or is it someone else’s…**

This was from my husband. My kids’ father.

**For your income, do you depend on the plot? A 100% on the plot?**

Yes. On the plot. Because we don’t have income from anywhere else. We have to work in order to have something to sell.

**According to you, is the income sufficient to live properly?**

No, there are times when they are scarce. Considering that we are a few. It is This girl with her daughter and the two of us.

**Oh, she has a daughter.**

Yes.

**And what do you do when you don’t…**

She. She works here with him. And so, from what the plot generates, we sustain ourselves, for the food.

**Where do you find your food? Do you buy it? Do you produce?**

No, here we only produce banana and onions. The rest we have to buy it.

**Ok, and where do you buy it?**

At the town, in Belalcazar.

**I would like to do an exercise. I have this and I have some cards here, that represent different areas or aspects in life. I would like to ask you how important is this area for you, in your life, to live nicely. If it is the most important you can put it high or if it is less important you can put it low or in the middle. And I would like to discuss it a little. I would like to begin with social relationships.**

Our social relationships are very few. Very few.

**Very few? Is it something you would like to have more of?**

Yes, I would like to have more. Yes.

**And for you, what importance do social relationships have in your life?**

In my life? Well, you get to learn a lot from social relationships. You learn more and add to the little you know. Right?

**So, where would you put it? High? Low? Or in the middle?**

Well, I think that here.

**Here? Ok, I can put it there.**

Yes. I’d put it there.

**Then, social relationships are not that important to you.**

No, no.

**You prefer being alone or…?**

No. I like to have relationships with people but not with everyone, because there are people that… Right? There are people with whom you are not able to have relationships. For you to be able to say that you can have a dialogue, for you to… no, no. There are people you like and with those you can have social relationships.

**And safety?**

Very good. I like this one. I like this one better.

**You do?**

Yes, because with safety you feel good.

**So where would you put it?**

I would put it on that place.

**Yeah? Ok. High. Higher. Ok, good. And public participation? Participating in associations, or organizations, maybe politics?**

Oh, no. I don’t like politics.

**You don’t?**

No.

**And in the association, do you participate in meetings and things as such?**

Yes. I do, in meetings. Because in meetings you listen and you get to learn more.

**Where would you put it?**

Well, this one does jump. I think I would place it here.

**Here? Not too important but more like the social relationships? Ok. And housing? Your home.**

Very good. Yes. Even if it is poor but it is very good, right? It is.

**Yes. It is important for you? Where would you place this aspect of your life?**

This aspect of my life, I can place it next to other ones, right?

**Yes, you can. Yes, yes. Higher?**

Like this.

**Education and knowledge?**

Education and knowledge. Yes. Very good, yes. Because if you were to have more education, it would be easier for you to talk with people. You learn more.

**And do you participate in trainings and courses? From the association.**

If it is from the association, yes. But by myself, no. No.

**And where would you put this card?**

I think I would place it here.

**In the middle. Ok. And mobility? Like, going to different places…**

Well, we are moving from one place to the other.

**Yes. Having the possibility to move to other places, is it important for you?**

Yes, it is important. Yes.

**What means of transportation do you use?**

Around here, cars. Yes. Because around here there are routs.

**And do you also use it to transport cocoa and bananas?**

Yes.

**And where do you place this card?**

Oh, with this one, how? Well, this one I don’t know where to place it.

**You don’t?**

No.

**Is it at the same level as having a good education? Or a good house? Is it less important? More?**

No, the house is very important.

**More important than that, than mobility?**

No, it is very important, too. Then I will place it there, too. Right?

**Yes, you can. As you wish. And a satisfactory job? For example, right now, are you satisfied with your activities? With your job?**

Yes, yes.

**You do? And what relevance does that have, to have a good job, for you?**

Having a good job is very good, because you work on that and get more income.

**Ok. It is more about the income?**

Yes. If you can have more income, you can live better. Yes, but… Yes. I do feel satisfied with what you do here at the plot. Yes. Because, since you can’t… I would have liked to have a job where I’m very satisfied, by having had the proper studies. But since I didn’t… Therefore, where would I place it? Does it fit up there?

**Up there? Yes.**

It fits up there?

**Yes, if you…**

Then I can put it up here, right?

**Yes. And if you could change something at work? On the activities, what would that be?**

Well, I would like to… If I could change, I would like small business, so you don’t have to be from here to there, doing one thing and the other. I would like a small business, right?

**Ok. That is something you would like? Ok. What about leisure and free time?**

Yes, because you are at least there. So not everything is only work.

**No. And what is it that you would like do, when you have free time?**

Free time. Sports.

**A sport.**

A sport, yes. To work out.

**You would like to do that? Very good.**

Some sport, I would like it.

**And do you think that right now you have sufficient free time to do that? To have free time, to rest.**

Yes. Because for what you have to do here, you wake up early. Early. Doing what you have to do, by noon you have free time.

**At noon?**

Yes.

**Oh, ok.**

You don’t need that much time because, why would I work too hard if afterwards there is nothing else to do? Therefore, you don’t do the chores lightly. On the contrary, if you have an activity, you wake up early.

**And so, where would you put it?**

I think it fits well here.

**Here? Ok. And nutrition?**

This one is important. One must be well nourished, eating things that are good for you.

**Do you always have sufficient food to feed yourself and your family?**

No, there are times when it is limited.

**It is?**

Yes. There are times when there is little and you have to hang there in the meantime, while it improves and there is more food. Yes. Because every day you won’t have the same food.

**Ok. Then where do you put this card?**

Oh, god.

**Let me make you more room. You can place it wherever you want to.**

Well, I will put it here, because there is nothing yet.

**Oh, really? Lower?**

Isn’t it good like this?

**It is? Ok. Because it is important but not that important? Or?**

Over there is more important and here less important?

**Yes.**

Oh, no. Then it doesn’t fit well here. Here, let’s place it somewhere here.

**Higher. Yes. And self-determination? For you to make your own decisions.**

Very good.

**For example, who makes the decisions here, about the plot?**

The two of us. Both. Because he… When we were going to come here, that was an agreement we had. We will both agree on whatever is done in the plot. There are times when there is something to be done and he comes and say “come here. Could you tell me what to do? Would this thing be good? Or what do you think?”. If I see it is convenient, I tell him to do it. If I think it is not, I tell him I don’t agree.

**You do it together?**

Yes, together.

**And decisions about the house, who makes them?**

The two of us.

**The two of you, too. Ok. And where would you place it? As more important? As less important?**

Well, somewhere here. It is more important. Yes.

**Yes, more important. Ok. And mental health?**

Also very good. Yes. Because when you have a good mental health, you are very good. And where do I place it? This one is also very important. Over there, where there is the other one.

**Yes, you can.**

Because it is very important.

**To take care of the environment?**

It is also very important, yes.

**And in what ways do you take of the environment?**

Here, the environment is taken care of. Here, trash is picked up. Here, we don’t burn things. The little smoke, which is what contaminate the most, comes from the wood stove. But nothing that could spread. Because here, all the trash is picked up. The organic does get spread. But bottles and plastics and up in a shed.

**And in the plot, do you use chemical fertilizers, pesticides, things like that?**

No, fertilizers.

**Fertilizers.**

Yes. But now we have a pit to do organic fertilizers. To stop contaminating more with those chemical fertilizers.

**Ok, so where do you put this one?**

Might it be that I place it up there, too?

**Yes? Ok. And at the end comes physical health. How is your physical state?**

Well lately, lately I haven’t walked much. I haven’t walked much because I’ve had a lot of pain in my feet. But since I’ve been doing something that has taken a lot of the pain away, now I’ve been walking. And well, this one is also very important. So it goes over there. But there is no more space to place. We’ll place it here.

**We place it there. And from all of these aspects, if you could improve one, two or three of them, what would it be? Which ones would you change?**

No, well, I think they are ok like that.

**You do? Oh, no, but not the cards, their position but…**

The cards position?

**No, more of an aspect in your life, that we have just discussed, all of these things, all of these topics. For example work, nutrition, education, well, all of these things. Could you change some in your life? To improve something. What would that be?**

Well, if there was something I could change, that would be education. To have more education.

**Education? Yes?**

Oh, yes. That one I would have like to change.

**And now, in your current life, are there things you would like to improve? To change?**

In my current life? No.

**No. You feel satisfied?**

Yes, I feel satisfied. No.

**Ok. Now I’m going to show you somethings, because we are interested in the residues from the plot, for example, the cocoa peels, the coffee pulp or, for example, bananas which we have seen a lot here, it also produces residues. What we are researching is, if it is possible to transport these residues to a factory, like this one. In this factory these residues could be transformed into different products. For example, a biocrude and biocarbon. This biocrude can be used to produce different things. In our project we are investigating this one, if we can use the biocrude to produce biofuels for the maritime sector, for ships. But it can also be used to produce bioplastic, paint, and all of these things. What do you think about this idea, to use the residues to produce these things.**

Oh, wow, very good. We, this cocoa peel, we throw it there, to a shed we have. In that shed is where the coffee pulp ends up. So, these things, which are organic trash, all of that ends up there. And at the chicken with their chicks. That also has a shed and we apply it there. We mix it and we generate organic fertilizers.

**And why do you do it like that?**

Because if you throw it just like that to the crops, it is not that productive.

**It isn’t?**

No, because, since it is by the sun and the shadow… And if the sun hits it and water falls on it, then the most interesting thing is, the water washes it while it falls, it washes it, and what is left there is not as utilizable as when it is at the shadow.

**Ok. And if there was a possibility for there to be a plant around here, would you be willing to provide this biomass, these residues?**

Yes. Yes.

**You do? Because, right now, you are also using it for fertilizers. But if this plant exists and you transport it, there won’t be more for the fertilizer.**

No, but by considering that plant, with all of the cocoa peels there are, then it wouldn’t be possible.

**Not all of it?**

No, because we would run out of something to produce the organic fertilizer with.

**So, a part of it, you would like to use in the plot, but not all of it.**

Yes, maybe a third part going out. Yes.

**Ok, so a part of it. And would you be willing to transport it? Do you think it is possible to transport it somewhere?**

What can I tell you? For it to be on us, no. It would require to collaborate, to say that I will collaborate with a part, from here to there, but you have to come and transport it yourself. Yes.

**Ok. That is better for you.**

Yes, because to collaborate already with a part from here to there and also having to transport it, it is not profitable for us. Because for us, it would mean to provide the transport and to take it where we would have to take it.

**Ok. And what is it that you do with the banana residues?**

The banana residues are thrown where the cocoa peels are and it degrades there, transforming into soil.

**Also the leaves and the…**

No, not those. Those are chopped and spread through the crops where it degrades and becomes fertilizer for the soil.

**Ok, ok. Well, thank you so much. These were my questions. I don’t know if there is something else you would like to tell us or to say?**

No, no.

**Well, thank you much.**