**F24 - 26-11-2021 English transcript farmer #24 – male – Cambil – 41**

**To begin, you can introduce yourself to us**

Good day, I am [name]. I’m a traditional, ecological, mountain range olive farmer, from Cambil-Arbuniel, Sierra Magina Jaen, Andalusia, Spain, Europe, world and surroundings.

**How old are you?**

I’m 41 years old. I live out of farming. I live at the countryside all year long. I have a university’s degree. I studied in Jaen’s university, social worker. I strongly believe that people should bet on farming, on our lands, on our roots, on our identity. Therefore I left my previous work and I bet 100% to the farming life, including all of what it implies.

**And for how long have you lived a hundred percent from agriculture?**

I’ve been living 4 years a 100% out of farming. Living on the countryside with an exclusive dedication for farming. This is, well, the small things that we do that I love. I love communicating, communicating our culture, our ways of living. Everything, everything it implies.

**Could you describe what a day is like for you?**

Perfectly. A day at the fields, firstly, working outdoors, I mean in the open, is very good. It is little stress but it is very harsh, too. Outdoors’s life, in the open, one day it rains, other the wind blows, and yet you have to work. It is harsh, but it gives you back. Normally I wake up on a day at down, 7, 8 am. For example, these days that has been raining, we stop fields activity and we can focus on farming activities, but secondary ones. But on a normal day of harvesting I wake up at 7, I have breakfast, I pick up my helper, my workman, who basically is my brother, and around 9 or so we begin with the workday. We begin the workday at the olive grove. By the morning it is cold, especially now in winter when it is 0 degrees. But it is very enjoyable to work outdoors. I left my previous life due to psychological stress, because it was a big psychological load. And now in the countryside I don’t have that load, I’m more relaxed. It is more physical. Now the load is more physical. That’s why people in farming say that the farming has to be taken calmly, calmly. It is not like an office work where you tell yourself that you have to finish quickly. No, because it is very exhausting. It is harsh. To work on the countryside is harsh. It is only for people who really is in love with the farming life, being in contact with nature. I need of the constant connection with mother earth. It is out of vocation. I don’t do it thinking of the money I’m going to earn. Because nowadays, farmers in Andalusia struggle for the money because, if you allow me, there is an abandonment from the state towards the primary sector. Spain, Andalusia and mostly Jaen, most of… there is little industry, it is mainly the primary sector. Agriculture. And there is an abandonment. There is an abandonment because each time the prices of our products are going lower. The quality increases since the controls are better but the price goes down. Therefore… We understand that the European Union, who is the one that settles the standards… I, for example, know that the European Union helps third party countries such as Morocco but of course, if we are part of the Union, they’re generating competition from the outside. On one hand they say, generate great high-quality products” but then we encounter… They help, for example, Morocco… Before Morocco had some third-world cooperatives but now they can compete against us. It happens that in phytosanitary products and in quality controls they’re not ask as much as compared to within the European Union. I’m trying to sat that the problem is very complex and is way bigger from what a farmer can control. I insist, the farmer is the last block of the chain.

On top of that, what happens is, another topic, another melon I’ll open; the school dropping rate in this region has been high. People had to drop school to help their parents in the olive grove. So what happens? You combine all of this and you get people that live out of the olive grove, who aren’t well prepared, that don’t properly attend social petitions that are being claimed every day. What I’m trying to say is we don’t protest. Jaen is an example of conformism. For example, with the new pack, that was approved 2 or 3 days ago, the ecologic, the ecologic farmers, we survive but the traditional, all life-long conventional ones, are having a very rough time since help is being reduced, reduced, reduced. With the extra gravity that support goes to, for example, the people… to the large properties, large estates, such as, OSVERT, FRISENERT, big brands. Sometimes small farmers get onto the streets to defend our rights but in reality, we are defending the big exploitations. The role of the farmer is the worse to be living in because we are the last block of the chain and all the troubles that come to the olive sector land on us. Some budget has to be reduced, on us. If a product’s price has to be risen like the gasoline or electricity, like just happened, who has to pay for it? Us. Then, coming back to what my day is like, in all of my day a think a lot about all of that. It only is compensated by the fact of living in the countryside but out of conviction, not economy. From farming you don’t get money. You don’t get money being a small farmer like me who only has 800 olive trees. If you have 8.000 or 80.000, as for example the Alba duchesse or people like that, you can live out just from the subventions that you get from the European Union but for us, a small farmer with 800 olive trees, the support is minimum and what they’re making us do is pressure ourselves more, more, more, more, more. I think the future will be the abandonment of the traditional olive grove, due to something else. We can’t fight against intensive olive grove, super intensive, prairie-like, where machinery works well. There, machinery works very well. Do you think that there, in my olive grove, I can introduce machinery? I can’t. I can’t. The pickup goes the ancestral way, like a thousand years ago: hitting with sticks, with bundles. We are at my best olive tree. I call it “The Spanish one” because it is my most centenary tree, the flattest. But from my 800 olive trees, there are no flat areas. I live in the mountains, Sierra Magina, a very mountainous region therefore the terrain is like this, sometimes a 40-45% of unevenness. You can’t work with machinery. We can’t compete against the prairie-like olive grove, intensive nor super intensive. Oh, by the way, another think I don’t get. Here there used to be large properties of grains, corn, barley; and they were taken out to plant that intensive olive grove, which by the way, is not sustainable for nature. It exploits natural resources like water. It is on illegal waterholes; they’re precisely taken water from… below Jaen’s underground, Cazorla, Magina, there is the largest aquifer, the largest reserve, called the aquifer 19. That aquifer, they are exploiting it and not for us. We, by the Guadalquivir’s hydrographic confederation, are not allowed to drink or water with our own water and that water goes to Sevilla to water rice! Rice. Rice, mustard and the Valencian *falleras* brands that are not even from Andalusia. Meaning the revenue doesn’t stay in Andalusia. And with that water in Huelva, strawberries, cranberries, berries are watered. Berries that… Illegal waterholes next to Doñana. That is the water they taking away from us. We are back to saying that in Jaen we are big conformists. We’ve been taught to be conformists. To a conformist, today they take this much from. If you remain quiet, tomorrow they take more from you. Another day more, another day more. And we are up to here. In Jaen we are up to here. Farmers might be a little to blame by the fact of being conformists. But now there is a generation like mine, well educated, with their own criteria. Because that’s what people lacks here, own criteria to analyze the information that we get. Do you know what happens when you analyze the information that gets to you? You see the cruel reality. The cruel reality is that it is very hard to go to trim and work on the field and I don’t even earn a damn. I don’t even earn 50 euros for myself. I can’t even employ other people because the rentability of the olive grove is very scarce. Who wins, small people that are not in cooperatives or a private that makes cooperatives like Castillo de Camena, Oro Vailen, Bravoleo, Supremo. They’re brands that is one person outside of the cooperative… It is more functional. It advances more. A large cooperative with a thousand partners, an assembly… It is crazy! You never go ahead, because people are conformists. They don’t want to move forward. They are not progressists. They are conformists.

**That’s why, because you’ve said it, you are in a cooperative with 20 partners?**

Yes.

**That’s the reason?**

I’ll explain. The cooperative is called “[name]”. It was founded in 1998 getting involved, people that is passionate for ecological agriculture like me, we are 20 partners. It’s the same, there are a lot of expenses, we can’t compete against a large cooperative because we have almost the same expenses. Do you know why we do it? Out of conviction. Because we are ecological people. Sustainable. Sustainable with the natural environment. We respect the environment. I live here all year long. As an example, nowadays we use masks for the virus, right? And there are people that poisons using glyphosates. I hate the glyphosate. They throw it on the fields and they later eat that olive. It makes me say, you use a mask to talk but then you use poison and you eat it. I don’t understand that concept. But I do say that the ecological concept is not defended enough, in Spain. Being ecological here in my region is like being dumb because you get less production and earn less money. I have to give more care to my olive grove than a traditional one and on top of that my olive grove produces less olives and on top of that the price is similar to the traditional one. Summarizing, it is really nice to be told “ecological”, “sustainable” by Europe but it is not institutionally supported. It is more about conviction, not institutional support.

**And what activities do you have in the cooperative?**

We, the cooperative, is for ecological extra virgin olive oil. The activity is all year long. Right now we are in the campaign. We have one month, one month which is November and a few days from October, to collect them. It’s 30 days. It’s 30 days. We can’t say “Oh I have too many olives”. No. In those 30 days you must get enough people to collect all of your olive grove because we have some standards, some canons, stablished. We have to collect now and we finish in December. Then we cut, trim the olive group. We have a work plan. We stick to that plan. But the cooperative’s activity is basically collecting now followed by commercialization. I remembered a detail. Here we also have the mantra that when we are done with the olives, the last truck load in the cooperative, the oldest people used to say “oh, the olives are finished. So good, so good. Until next year”. No! You have finished the first part, which is harvesting. Now comes the most important one: the commercialization. That’s why there are young people with vision. What a shame it is the 21st century, we are already late. We are not discovering anything new; we are going late. Only the 10% of the oil we produce in Jaen is sold bottled. Imagine the conformism. The 90% of our wealth, of our added value is given in bulk to the Italians. Turns out that I was in Italy, to see what olive groves are there. There are olive groves only in Calabria, in Regio Calabria. In the boot. The point of the boot. Very few olive groves. Very few. Only to make pictures. But any olive oil sold in the world are “made” in Italy or “made” in Portugal. More than Spain. What is happening? We are conformists. We give away the oil to the Italian since many decades ago and now they fill the markets. We, to enter into a market, have to talk to the Italian distributor. If you don’t sell it in bulk, if you bottle it, they also tell you “I’m the distributor, come here”. You’re also charged by the Italian. Italians have always been ahead in terms of commercialization. Just think in 1800’ they were already in New York. As an example, we sell a lot of Spanish oil in the USA but it is not “made” it is “made” in Italy.

**And what is your role in the cooperative. Are you in the board or another...?**

I have many roles. I love getting involved, also altruistically, in everything related to the olive grove. I’m the kind of person that if I get into something I go the 100%, I don’t have restraints. I’m the secretary but I’m also the ideal person to transmit, for example, social media or institutional relationships. If we have to go to “Expoliva”, a world-famous olive oil expo in Jaen, I attend. We have to go to “Madrid Fusion” with our brand, I attend. I like… I’m available, by the way altruistically. No one ever wins money in a Cooperative. It is a cooperative. But on top pf that, I get out of it that I feel good going and representing me and my partners that see agriculture or the environment in a way like I do. My job is basically, diffusion. By the way, since you asked about it. This year, in the olive grove, I gifted a bottle… I requested an audience with the king… This is my little dog, Torete… I requested an audience with the king and I was able to gift him this bottle. I was able to deliver it to him, not to his own hands, there Is people for the protocol; but by the way, he sent me a letter! He sent me a thank you letter. Well, that letter I put at the cooperative as something… Well, as something saying that the king consumes our oil. Vincente del Bosque. Recently I was invited the city hall of Carboneros, a city nearby, to a visit from Vicente del Bosque, our world-cup football recruiter. Precisely, we defeated the Netherlands 1 to 0. The thing is that he invited me. This man is really humble, too. I go I gift him my bottle, I do brand promotion and brand image work. Because there is no one more certain and convinced that my cooperative that we have the best extra virgin olive oil Picaul in the world. I’m good at that.

**Then you say that you live here in the countryside. For how many years?**

I’ve lived in the countryside for four years, all year long. Before I would come in the summers. When I used to work in the hotel industry I… I’m very versatile, multidisciplinary. I get bored from doing the same thing my whole life. I like being versatile, doing a lot of things, interconnected. For example, the hotel industry, the restaurant industry, gastronomy. My passion, by the way. We come from my bar, from my restaurant. But what is better that marrying gastronomy, extra virgin olive oil, tourism. It all goes interconnected. I mean, multidisciplinary, but disciplines that connected between one another. Torete. Torete. Come here, come. He is too annoying. Come here, come here. No, no, it might bother her. It might bother her. Wait, wait. Come here Torete, it is not yours, come. Here is more loving than myself.

**Do you live here by yourself?**

I live by myself. Well, not by myself, with my family. Torete. Torete, my little dog, and my cats. I have 4 cats. I don’t live by myself. Ah, also, I like that question. On top than with my family, I live with myself. Which is different. Look, to be, to talk, with yourself, you need to be with yourself. Right now I’m telling you the things that I already know. But for me to reflect on things I need to be with myself. Alone. Without more people, without television. Only you with your creativity. And it is good to do that exercise because you organize yourself. You have time for yourself. Time for myself is what I’ve never had. In the hotel industry. In the stress life, in the city. Now, I have time with myself, which is the best gift I can give myself. It doesn’t mean that you have to be isolated. I have university studies. I’ve traveled through the five continents. I’ve traveled to India. I traveled to Brazil. There I did spent two years in the Campinas University. There I studied social work, social movements. I’ve been very adventurous. This is my base, my military base, from where I plan the movement I’m going to make. It is like my space. I need my space for creativity, inspiration, for all that sort of things. But yes, I insist, I live here all year long. I love it. I love it. Speaking of which, let me tell you something. I’ve worked a lot and I’ve earned a lot of money. A lot of money. We are speaking 7000 euro a month. You know what? I wasn’t happy. I wasn’t happy because I rested on Mondays. I forcefully needed to go out on Monday, to feel alive, to spend money, just to go back to my normal routine on Tuesday. Now, as you know, I don’t earn money because the olive grove is not to earn money, but I won in terms of quality of life. I’ve won in terms of my time, for me, which before I didn’t have. And that is priceless. I’m happier now, not having money, living with what is enough; than when I was earning money. Totally, totally. Before I used to have heating. Now I have firewood to burn a fire. For me, that’s wining in life quality. Now on what I was telling you on education dropout. Mostly, kids leave school to help parents. Girls do stay, some, in university, but they don’t perform their profession. Torete, stop it man. Tell him to tell it something. He is that annoying, the dog. Go away man. Well, like I was saying. The women, the girls, get their university diplomas but they never perform it. You know why? Because they go home with the town’s boy that already has olives. The boy will tell her “You don’t need to work. You go home.”. But it isn’t even in terms of machoism. They’re not aware. It is so deep in our Andalusian culture, from towns, from the emptied Spain. It is normalized. It is normalized that you get married and the person, the woman, gets limited to administer your home. And the man… She has university studies and she is at home and the man, who only knows ARAR or going to the fields is the one who has the decision maker voice. Do you get me? How complex is the topic of the olive grove in here? It is very complex. It involves everything. Education, sanity, culture. It involves everything. It affects everything. A low intellectual level affects everything. It makes a conformist society. That’s what I fight against. My work is mainly to awake consciousnesses. To make people think. Often, I speak and people gets annoyed but I say “No, look. I’ll explain reality to you. Don’t answer to me, it is rhetorical. You go and metabolize it by yourself and think about it yourself. You don’t need an answer to my affirmation. It is not a question it is an affirmation.

**Then here you are self-sufficient?**

Sufficient, self-dependent and autodidact.

**And what energy sources do you have? Do you have solar panels?**

I’ll tell you. I have a farmhouse from around 1980. I restored it a bit. The light we have the most here in Andalusia is the sun. Sun. By the way, they out taxes on sun a couple years ago here in Spain. While the Netherlands were putting up solar panels on the sea, we have 300 days of sun a year and they put a tax on sun. But well, that already happened, I’m going off topic. I have panels. I have a lot of sun. I have energy. The heating is from the wood I trim from the olives.

**Do you use it all?**

All of it. I use all of it and sometimes I’m short on it. It is almost an equilibrium. From the 800, 900 olives I have, I trim 300 and that’s the firewood I’ll use that winter. Another year I cut other 300. And the year after… It means every 3 years I’ve trimmed each olive. It is a mechanism I have in order to be self-sufficient. There won’t be offer nor demand. Exact. Exact. Another thing, on recycling. The rods. Around September, October, prior to the harvest, we take out, here we call it “chupón”, “vareta”, these are the small branches that are attached to the trunk, that we cut them out. They are small branches, as you can see there is a pile, that normally we put in long lines and we have a chopper machine that comes in and grinds it all, so it stays as vegetation cover. Before they used to be burnt. Before you would gather it all and burn it. But now we know that it is less labor, more sustainable and the same power that comes from the olive stays in as vegetation cover.

**And the machine is able to get in?**

Yes. For example, we have to do it like this. The olive that are like that, there it can’t get in. But we go through cutting, take it all down to the flat ground, then comes the machine, we put it all in a row, and in a couple of hours it has cut it all. It cuts it all. It remains, it grinds it very finely, and it remains in the field. And in the drought season… Torete, go away man. In drought season you know what we do? That compost, instead of it being left there… Even when we trim some small branches break, leaves fall… Those branches, when we clean, we throw it to the olive’s hole, to the center of the olive, so it conserves moisture. As now, in drought season it rains little, when it rains that weed stays there, the leaves, and keeps the moisture below. All that is produced is sustainable. The last thing that we did was the pellet. The pellet. Before it was made out of pine trees now it is made out of olive trees. For pellet stoves. Small stoves that were invented. They’re like… manure, we would say? Yes, more like compacted wood. That. Compacted wood to burn. Exactly. That’s booming.

**And you have it for your home?**

I don’t use it for my home but I take residues for it to be made into pellets. Because the same cooperative, the trimming residues, we make orujillos, pellets, for that kind of biomass stoves.

**They do it at the cooperative?**

Yes, yes. The same cooperative has the design to produce the same residues. Remember we want to be totally sustainable. For what is generated to remain there as organic matter. So that we don’t have to externalize services. Torete, go away. Alfonso, do something because he is really annoying. Even the orujo, for example that you mentioned earlier, which by the way in the oil meal at Magina we barely produce orujo. What I mean is, we have more losses when we throw it into the orujera. We even have to pay to people for them to take it away. When we learned that the large companies are the one buying that orujo to take it to their refineries and press it to see if they can get more oil… When I realized they are these big brands buying the residue to further press it and get the refined oil. By the way, another thing we haven’t done correctly here is calling things by their names. What it is an extra virgin olive oil, “AOVE”, virgin olive oil, “lampante” oil, refined oil. For example, the refined oil, from that all orujeras that buy and get the refined oil, that thing here we wouldn’t even feed it to the goats. Not even the lampante. And do you know what is the largest world business for olive oil? “Lampante” olive oil. The cooperatives sell extra virgin but less than “lampante” because, who buys “lampante”? Big companies that want to make mixtures that scape sanitary control.

**How did you learn to work on the fields and to make it ecological?**

Family. It is inherited. It is transmitted from generation to generation. But new generations have the obligation of improving the old ones. My grandfather taught things to my father. My father improved those things to teach them to me. I have the obligation to improve the present to give a better functionality to the new generations, to my kids, for example. But everything is inherited. For example, you also need to have courage. For example, there is a lot of people here in this area that would tell you “The thing is that for 30 years we’ve been doing it like this, digging like this.” And I have had to tell people “Well, we’ve been doing it wrong for 30 years. Not because you’ve been doing something the same way for a long time it is correctly done. Maybe we’ve been doing them wrong for a long time. We will change”. Conformism. People that talk like me at the beginning it is “Oh, oh, who do you thing you are?”. But later, with time, people get conscious but that is produced slowly. It is not action – reaction. It happens slowly. Slowly.

**Do you have dreams, are there things you want to achieve?**

I don’t have dreams because it is still daytime. Olive farmers, no, it is a small joke; go to bed at 10 or 11 for the next day. But I have dreams. The dreams I have are not for me in an egoistic way or improvements for me. No. It is about the common well-being. It is something that, I want good for every one of you. Because if it goes well for you, you and you, tomorrow it will impact me too. That’s the mentality that I try to transmit: common well-being. Here the is a lot of people that think… I do one thing and the farmer looks at you “Look what that one is doing, how he does it. He has gotten more olives”. No, that’s not the formula. The formula… My teacher in Brazil was Paolo Freire, well a disciple of his, Julio Cesar Nunez. My way of understanding education is Paolo Freire. It is not the elitist way of “you first, you second, you third”. Fake fellowship. It is “what I know how to do I’ll explain to you, to you and to you so we all do it”. Because if we all do it, we all grow. Because one has no the strength of all. Together we are stronger and united we are indestructible. But that consciousness of solidarity is not too well rooted here. Why? Because of conformism. Because of school dropping. Because people think “First I get warm and everyone can laugh”. It is a saying that means as long as it goes good for me… No, mistake. That’s why Italians come to buy us the oil to the best offer. Because we have a big division. We’ve never known how to say “No. Jaen’s oil, everyone’s as one. If anyone wants Jaen’s oil, it is worth this much”. Unified. No. You know what happens? My town has 3000 inhabitants. It has 3 cooperatives. Until a few years ago, when there were no networks, when there were no communications like nowadays, an Italian guy would come to my town and would go first to one cooperative and ask how much the oil was. “Well, it is two and a half euro a litter”. “What do you mean? If I come from the other cooperative from your town and they said 2.40”. “2.40? Well, I’ll do 2.30”. A single Italian was causing division in my town because he was taking advantage that if I was the president of one cooperative and he was from another one, and we wouldn’t get along well, there was no communication. If his was 3.40 I would say that mine was then 3.30. And the other one 3.20. And it was a battle all the way down. Instead of up. It was a reality that has happened here, too. I’m very self-critical, because I believe that in order to improve, you have to be self-critical, and not talk only about the pretty things and about the things that we all do correctly, no. Because the things that we do correctly we know it, and we can see it and it works. We do we have to improve? In what is not done correctly. Totally.

**Well, what we want to do is, we have some cards…**

I’m loving by the way the interview and I’m loving talking to you. Because I’m venting out. That you give me a voice is the best thing that can happen to me in my life. I feel very fortunate.

**That’s good. For us too, talking to you. We have some cards here, and we would like to talk to you about different topics. I don’t know if we can clear some space for that?**

Yes, yes. Let’s take some stuff away. Thank you, Alfonso because it is one of the best experiences. I love participating.

**Here we have different topics, and we would like to talk about them and also how important they are for you.**

For example, from one to ten how important they are. Ok.

**We have three categories: the most important, minor importance and the least important.**

Perfect, I understand. I follow.

**The first one is self-determination. What does it mean for you?**

This is one is maximum, no? Maximum. Yes. Maximum. Totally. Self-determination, self-sufficiency, self-dependency, self-teaching. It goes together, it goes together.

**It is very important for you.**

Totally. Basic principles. Moral. Ethics. Totally. I prefer to lose money but to keep my dignity. My dignity is not something tangible, something you can quantify if it is worth more or less. Dignity is self-determination.

**And that’s something that you have now in your life?**

Totally, totally. I drive myself by values. Not by money or interests. The interests that I could have had in my life, I’ve already covered them. Now, something has to motivates me, precisely like this interview, to do it. Not about what I’ll get because I do it by altruism. It is about how it excites me, how it excites me. Now about what it will bring me. Wich, by the way, brings me a lot, but it is non-quantifiable because it is in terms of self-development, self-capacity. I mean, it is non-quantifiable. It is way more for the inside.

**And maybe that’s also why you chose…**

Exactly, the farmers life. Yes. It totally goes together.

**And confidence?**

Confidence is a very good question and a good card. It is like an ace of spades; I’ll tell you why. Confidence is something volatile. It is something… I feel there are days when I can have a maximum confidence, for hours and then one action in the day breaks it. I’ll explain myself. I try to be confident of what I do but I doubt of everything I do. It is not that I doubt, it is that I’m very restless. I mean, for example, I never believe a 100% yes and a 0% no. I give the benefit of the doubt. I may believe something on a 60% but I have my share of reluctancy, you know? Never in an opinion, for example they tell me “Real Madrid won yesterday and they played very good”. And I think ok, sure they won. That’s very nice but that about they played very well, I think “yes, yes, yes, the Champions is in the pocket… No, no, no. Ok they won but watch out, relax”. I mean, a part of me gives credit but another part of me keeps some discretion, some critic discretion, sorry for the redundancy, to say: “Yes, I’ve bet on this but not a 100%. Change may come. This can change at any moment”. I mean, confidence on what I do, but not confidence for what I do to have an impact for the whole life. Because I can do it now and tomorrow something may happen that, maybe won’t change me on regards of that, but take me through other paths.

**And do you feel safe living here, in this environment?**

Look, perfect question. I feel very sage. Precisely, I was going to tell Alfonso… Thursdays are hunting day, that’s why you hear gunfire. They hunting days. I have the hunting permit but I’m not a hunter. I don’t like hunting. At least looking at an animal in its habitat but I don’t like the fact of hunting. But I feel very safe, firstly. And second, that hunting is sustainable because sometimes, against the wild boars… The wild boars have an overpopulation at the moment so we need… Torete, don’t be annoying. We need to balance it. Because, look, here I’m next to the countryside. You see I’m next to the countryside. Here, many wild boars visit every night. Many. And you know the worst part? They do a lot of damage. They eat the watering hose, root in the ground, they make holes on the olive trees… They do damages, so even hunting we have to see it as something to balance. But because of conformism and abandonment, there is a lot of furtive hunting. I want to end with that

**But if you could give it some importance in your life…**

For confidence? I’ll give it three. I’m very optimist, you know? I always bet high on everything and life my teach me If I’m right or wrong.

**And mobility? Do you have possibilities to move around here?**

We’ve talk about it. Look, I’ll tell you about mobility. Mobility is something that is something in your mind. I’ve travelled through the five continents. Travelling through the five continents I’ve become one more native of the places I’ve been to. I’ve travelled to India. To Brazil I did go two years to Campina’s state university to study. To India I went as a hippie. As a total hippie. Yes, yes. Total hippie. I went to see the Beattle’s ashram, I went to dharamshala to see the Dalai Lama. I mean… I mean mobility, everything. But mobility is something that is in your head. I learned to travel very young. My parents, this is a reality, with 10 years my father put me in a plane to go to Barcelona. I wanted to go to watch the Barça – Madrid to Barcelona, I had uncles there. And he said yes, I’ll get you there. And I said, ok, I’ll go by plane. So he bought me the ticket, he dropped me at the gates of the airport, he tells me “Here, your ticket” and I was like “Well, bye”. I later understood there was a stewardess already waiting for me. The ticket costed him 120 000 pesetas. The stewardess was with me until my uncle took my hand but that made me, with 10 years, say “I’m a worldwide person”. I’m from Cambil, Sierra Magina, Jaen, Andalusia, Spain, Europe, world and surroundings. My parents gave me that opportunity to travel therefore, mobility, all of it. Because even though I’m here, I live here. Being here tonight, living alone, I feel in the world, part of the world because tomorrow I can say “Oh, tomorrow I’ll plan a trip to Thailand”.

**You feel that freedom…**

Exactly. But you know what? That was given to me by… In order for me to live here… The people from my town that has never left the town, because of school dropping, conformism, could never live in a farmhouse alone “oh, scary, scary”. But me, in my global vision of the world, I’ve realized that to be there is a privilege, it is not being alone. It is where I become bigger, where I organize mentally. But it is true that to see life like that you must have travelled, you must have had vital experiences in life. Someone who hasn’t have had those opportunities will never live it. University has not only given me the opportunity to study the specialty that I did but it has also given me the opportunity to be whole years of having the appropriate conditions to grow. To grow your intellect, your personality, your curiosities. I tell people it is not about what you will study but about the capacity it will give you to confront everything. It is mobility. Therefore, mobility, if there was a four, I’d give it a four.

**Is it more important than these two?**

It is not that it is more important but I go towards mobility. It is very important. Right. I never say more or less because they’ll say “What do you like more, mountains or the beach?”. Well, I like beach and I like mountains.

**Yes, it is hard to choose. And public participation?**

The example. I love it. I love doing some informative labor, expansive and altruistic on top. Altruistic because if you go under the knowledge that you’ll get a paid or something, then you have to maintain an image. But I’m spontaneous, my farming stuff. You read me pretty well at the bar, you have said “yeah, wherever you feel comfortable”. Do you remember telling me that? And I’m comfortable. I’m comfortable publicly speaking. Actually, I have a Facebook channel, and you know what video I made? I said, I was seen by twenty or twenty-five thousand people in the video but I made a video saying “If there is someone who wants to promote something, to sell something, mainly their oil, call me because I will help”. I do the video to reach more people totally altruistically. Because if I think in the common well-being and the capacity for solidarity, I need to give the example.

**Here I have spirituality. Does it have a role in your life?**

Yes, in my life it is very important. Actually, if you want, we can further document this more, I was in India and I was in Indie because of a call… A brother of mine died a few months before. Agustin, 20 years old. I was a hippie and I went with 5 friends. I felt the call. I took a shower in the Varanasi River, in the Ganges River passing by Varanasi, Beranes, which is where they cremate the dead. I took a shower in the dense water, black, without having vaccines, by the way. I was a hippie. We believed… For an interview for the Netherlands will be good. We used to do the urine therapy; I don’t know if you’ve ever read that book. Well this is an extra for you to check later. Therefore I believe a lot in spirituality because it is what frees me from what is so strong here and that is religion. If I, for example, say “the squatters in Spain”, the major squatters of Spain are the catholic church, who have thirty-five thousand properties taken that belong to the people but they had registered under their name. And on top of that they don’t pay IVI, they don’t pay taxes. And of course I say this in my town and they look at me “What is this one saying? What is this one saying?”. But it is the confidence it gives me… When I was in India, I was a Buddhist but there I learned with an Indian Saudu, a saint from there, that religions can serve to you at specific moments in your life like “Oh, I lost a brother” as a channel, but for them to get you to say “You are the universe of your world”. There has been no god that had the gift to tell you what will happen to you tomorrow. It is all in you. That’s why I assimilated Buddhism better. It is the person, there is no supreme god that indicates “you are good, you are a bad person”. That’s what I went to India for. That’s why I push forward with spirituality. I’m very positive, I’m a positivist.

**Yes, that’s what happens with these topics. They’re all important. The physical health? How is health…**

I’ll be honest with you. I’ll be honest with you because I feel very good talking to you. I’ve always taken good care about physical health except lately. I’d put it here, or here. You know why? Because in order to cultivate the intellect I’ve needed to sacrifice the physical health. What it involves, the night… You know? The intensity… The inspiration when it comes to you. It all comes on expense to the physical health. Physical health has decreased. I would put it here. Actually, I can even tell you that I have it very neglected. I’m honest, it is very neglected. Because, you know, I’ll explain why. I give so much, like we’ve talked about the common well-being, that I put myself at the end. My thing I left them to the end. For example, we are about to eat and I say, first eat everyone else, first eat everyone else. Then everyone has eaten and they ask me “But hey, have you eaten?” and I’m like “Ah, shit, no. I’ll eat in a moment, later”. I put myself at the end and it impacts in my physical health.

**First you think of others and then…**

Yes, yes. And I want to say something. It may sound as “oh, I’m very emphatic, what a nice person”. No, because I’m near the point to say “you are stupid. First take care of yourself because the day will come that if you don’t have physical health, you won’t be able to do anything. Anything”. Boom, the game is over. I’m at that point right now, you know? But it is resulting hard. I keep putting in second place. I have a very big self-esteem but in terms of physical health, I have neglected it. Look at that, how curious.

**And is there anything you need in terms of that?**

I would need… It would be a drastic change, because I would need to disconnect from something I enjoy a lot, which is working for others. If I would resign to all of this, most likely I would focus better. But there is a problem… The little fish that bites its own tail, because when feeling so empty with everything then I would say “What do I want physical health for if now I’m so bored? I’m too bored”. I prefer action over physical health. You see, how I put it at the end, physical health? That happens too.

This is nice, this is nice. This is very well organized; it is surprising me. I’m loving it, the interview. For real. From my heart, from my heart. If we would have done this in Cambril I wouldn’t feel this comfortable telling you these things I’m telling you.

Ah also, by the way, doctors give me the creeps, they give me the creeps. Every time I get my blood drowned, I am 40 years old, 41 already, every time that I get my blood drowned, I get dizzy. I tell the doctor “Look this will happen. You will draw my blood, I will get dizzy, I will lay down, I will put my legs up to get the blood back to my head”. I haven’t been able to get over that. No, no. You know what is helping? At the beginning of the pandemic, when I saw people putting on the vaccine, I had to do like this. But now, it is good they put is so much on the TV because I’m normalizing it, dude. That type of needles they have in the note I’ve been able to handle it but when they say “Go home. Don’t have breakfast, don’t have breakfast. Come back tomorrow”. Pum, pum, pum. Always dizzy, all of my life. It is also the phobia, and on top you have the doctor’s picture, it is also phobia. They go together.

**And self-expression, what does it mean?**

Phenomenal. Here, another of my strong suits, too. Although altogether, I always keep some things for myself. I don’t keep them to myself because “Oh god, this will sound super strong” but because to the level that I give people information, because I know it is a lot of information, they won’t be able to metabolize. I insist, sometimes when I’m talking, I have to relax and tell myself that I won’t be too self-expressive. I have to dosify myself, you know? This includes a lot, like lately it has been raining through many days, so the workers don’t come, there are days that I spend here without going out, without seeing no one. And it happens that someone comes, Alfonso, and I go off talking. And he is like “Easy, easy, easy”. Understand that it has been three days talking only to my dog and to my cat. This happens, you know. Those little… I have a lot to say. But it happens to me too… I take to the same channel, due to the ignorance, school dropping and conformism, I have to stop myself because I think “I’ll give so much to this person’s head, I’ll give him too much information that he’ll get angry at me. He’ll think…”. People asks you for sincerity, but when you give it to them, they go “What are you saying? You are crazy!”. You ask me for sincerity but when I give you honesty you don’t want to listen to it. And you know what happens here due to the little, low intellectual quality? People get angry at you, they get envy, you move on to become their enemy.

To me, the people that has taken the opportunity to explain something to me, something I was very sure of, and they have explained it to me, the opposite. They are the people I remember the most in my life because they made me think. And since they made me think they’re always in my head. Here it is different with a lot of people. If you make someone think and take them out of their comfort-zone they say “said over there, what are you saying? You are crazy!”. And they get angry at you. They don’t want to hear the truth. They want you to be honest but without saying the truth. I’ll put it here, at nine and a half.

**You put a lot of effort but sometimes you need to…**

Flinch, flinch. Retreat, exactly.

**And leisure and free time?**

I love it.

**Do you have free time?**

Yes, I do. The thing is there is a secret. I have to tell it to you. For me, before, when I was working in the hospitality industry, I didn’t used to have much free time but I looked for a formula which is the one I transferred to the olive grove. For me a work day also includes leisure and games, I’ll tell you why. Leisure because I can be talking, I can be trimming but I’m drinking my little beer. I smoke my cigarette too, you know? Games. Maybe… You’ve seen that video with the green olive, where I say… we get to a green olive tree and I say “Wait!” And I lay on the same fabric and say “Record one minute video”, playing with the olive, throwing it over my head and then I say “Oh, no olive has been broken nor hurt”. But I also include… That’s a good secret, that’s a good secret in life, pay attention to what I’m going to say. If you are able to make that work includes leisure, games, entertainment, you are not working. You are enjoying life, dude.

**So, is that what you are doing now?**

That is what I’m doing now. That’s what I’m doing now. Get half.

**And mental health?**

Good question. I’ll tell you the truth. Well, we are going very long, do you want me to go faster or are you comfortable for me to keep talking. Mental health. Easy. From me to within, from me to myself, perfect. A five. From me towards the other, a one and a half. So, you tell me. Mental health from me to myself, I place myself here. If it is what externally, what people appreciate from me, I place myself here. That’s right.

**Can you explain it?**

I’ll explain. I don’t allow to get driven by external opinions, at all. Even if they tell me “Look, don’t go through there since I went last night and you might crash”. I say “Look, I’m sorry but I want to go there and if I crash it will be me. If something happens to me let it be because it happened to me and not because of what people have told me”. I prefer to apologize rather than ask for permission. I never ask for permission for anything. I do it. I get rid of that curiosity. I need to get rid of it. Myself. Not through someone else’s experience. I need… I’m an action man… I lost myself. It was the spirituality one?

**No, mental health.**

Mental health. As you can see, in my opinion I’m very sane because you have given me a word, you say “branch”, and I can make you an essay in five minutes with five thousand words, about branches. I’m very active mentally, in my opinion. But, if I go out to the exterior, since the level is not like here, well… That’s where the problems come. Because I see a person coming towards me, a kilometer away, and I already know what that person will say to me. And I’m telling them in the way and people don’t like that. I do like to be studied like that. To be done a Freudian analysis. But people don’t like that. Specially because I undergo an analysis and I can tell you, ok, that’s your opinion. If I can make use of something I’ll keep it. But to other people it is such a shock that they’re put in a dangerous humor.

**And do you have any worries?**

I have a lot of worries; they don’t let me sleep. A mind like… A playful and wonderful mind like mine has a lot of worries. Therefore, what is socially seen as mental health is ok here or even here. Towards myself, I go up there because I don’t compare to my environment. I want to provide to my environment but… I’m going to tell you through a very good phrase: I want to conditionate my surroundings but I don’t want my surroundings to conditionate me. But you know why I don’t want to be conditioned by my surroundings? Because it is not providing anything to me. It throws to me from bellow. I go through the bother of giving my knowledge to people in an altruistic way, even knowing they might get angry at me but I know that I make people think. And I know that when they see me on the streets and say “Hello, hello”, they look at me and I can read in their face… man. People here wants to put a label on you. The dumb one, the ugly one, the tall one, the lame one, the red one, the white one, the blue one. And to me, my passionate, fun game is to break that label. If someone goes and say “Oh, you’re this kind of people”, tomorrow I’ll fight to say “I’m from this one”, to make it hard for people. This drives people crazy. That’s why I say that my mental health towards myself, I’m a flowing fountain. I’m a fountain that doesn’t stop flowing, you know? But you have to dosify it for society.

**Ok, ok. And taking care of the environment?**

My passion, my passion. I even put aside earning money. I don’t mind not earning money. I don’t want to earn money. I don’t want to earn money. I’m not driven by money; I’m driven the sustainable environment and having a person-environment equilibrium. I mean, how am I going to drop some chemical manure here if tomorrow I’ll be lying here. And this is something that I do sometimes, I swear, especially in spring and “pum” I go on eating the grass, I go on eating it. The wild arugula, the one I was going to tell you... the blaassilene, but raw. I eat the springs that emerge, raw. How am I going to add poison? I live here. I don’t come to the country side to pick up what I can earn but to be able to one day lay down below that olive tree and I don’t want that… I’m going to give you an example. I can’t mop at home, I can’t add too much of that floor cleaner to the mop not even with hot water, such that hot water vaporizes that… I can’t. I don’t tolerate chemical products, that concentration of chemicals. My body can’t tolerate it. Not even to mop my home’s floor. I have to add very little, or soap. A soap I have over there that is kind of natural and doesn’t generate vapors. It is for me to say “look how cool I am, super sustainable and such”. No. It is just that I don’t withstand it man, it can be close to me.

**And have you always lived like this?**

Yes. That sustainability with the environment, I’ve always had it. I need of that connection. I need… It nourishes me. It nourishes me. It nourishes me more, sometimes, than talking to people. This meeting is nourishing me a lot, but sometimes I go to my town and I see two or three people that I know what they’re going to tell me and I get bored. This nourishes me, that bores me. To that level, you know? To that level of importance, I swear.

**Then this is…**

Maximum. Maximum. A four, with mobility. Damn it. You’ve given me some of these, all of them super good ones. This is my thing; this is my thing.

**And education? Critical thinking?**

I love it. I’m a social worker, you can already imagine that… For example, currently in my projects, what I’m talking about, my Facebook page, since I live in the country side I don’t have means to have conversations everyday with people from universities nor anyone. There are sometimes weeks when I don’t see no one. But I do have to thank Mark Zuckerberg and all of these people… Well, I only have Facebook, but I don’t use Facebook as in “yeah look, now I’m having breakfast, now I’m getting up, now I’m going to the bathroom”. I think that my private life, until now that I’m loving the interview, is anybody else’s business. But I have seen it as a diffusion tool. Someone that is isolated like me over here, imagine, imagine if I didn’t have social media in order to share. I think I would have never moved over here. Because I need to express and share everything I have. And it is a very good channel, social media. You know why? Because if you talk like this to someone, face to face, maybe they put on the face: “what are you saying?”. And it puts you down. But me, through education on social media, I express myself and I let people to read and make their own interpretations of what they read. I am not responsible for what they interpret. But I am responsible of what I want to share. I love education, everything it involves, although I do tell you that education in Spain awful, because it is elitist education. What I told you about first, second… “You get a ten, you a nine, you an eight”. When I arrived in brasil my professor, Cesar Nunez, disciple of Paolo Freire, we all arrived… It was very good, international mobility… And he said, there was people from Oakland, there was people from good universities; “well, to everyone that comes from abroad, welcome. If you came to visit and get to know the country, do it because this is a passionate country. Give me your name and the grade you want me to give to you so you can go back to your university in good terms, and that’s it. Now, to the ones who really want to participate in class, you’ll also get the grade, but this is not going to be kind of exams and that thing you have in Spain about changing the study programs every four years. This is going to be a participative debate. It is going to be a one year long sociological experiment. Can you believe that nobody there skipped the class? People were there everyday 15 minutes but Alfonso, we had to put his classes, we promoted it, the foreign students, at the last timeslot because the debates, were two hours of debate but they would prolong to 3, 4, 5. I had never lived that in Jaen, Alfonso, dude. There I had such a motivation, of course the dude, let’s put as example… I’ve talked about the education in Spain, awful, because it goes together with the politicians. Every four years now comes the weight from the eleven, the eleven, the twelve, the… It is damn crazy, man. We haven’t learned in Spain that education can’t go indicated by politics. There needs to be a serious, long-term plan. Critical thinking is my thing. I could tell you right now that this oil is good and in five minutes, I’ll tell you all the weaknesses it has. I don’t want for anyone to think that… Because the compliments relax the subconsciousness. If you tell someone “Oh, you’re so good, you’re so good”, in his subconsciousness he says “since I’m that good…”, then he relaxes, he won’t work at the same rhythm. I don’t like people saying “Ah Pepe, come here”. No, no, I like better to be confronted, you know? To be… Because it makes me improve. Compliments, palms on the back, they… The subconsciousness relaxes you; you know? I mean, critical. Auto-critical thinking plus, I would say.

**Then…**

Ah sorry, sorry, sorry. I go to four or five. I love it, you know?

**And the work satisfaction?**

Work satisfaction is very important to do what I’m doing right now. If I didn’t feel ok at work, thinking I’m doing something wrong or something, I wouldn’t have allowed myself to do this with you. Now, a good professional development, if you feel good with yourself with the work you’re doing, you have spare time to do things, you know? It is very important. For that, having a laugh… A good planification. Behind this there is a good planification. Some terms, some times… In this time we have to do this, in this time… I mean, I’m a hippie but I’m very methodical, too. A three.

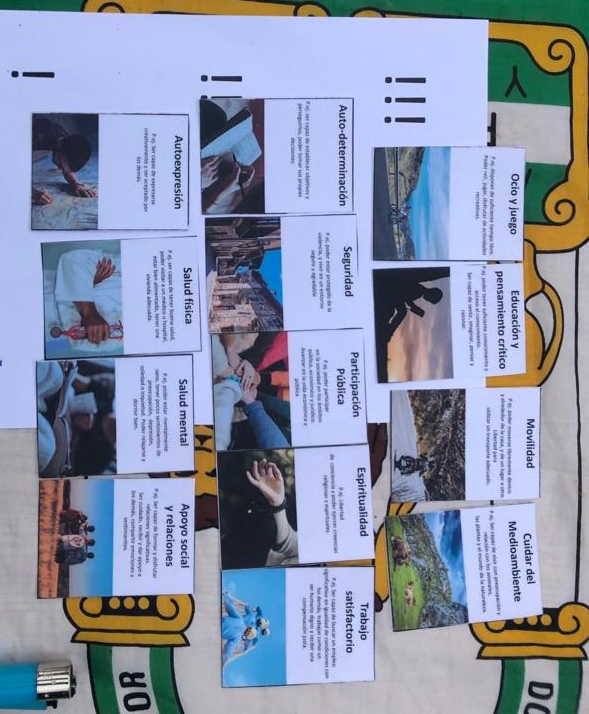
**And are you satisfied?**

Yes, yes, yes. Careful, it is very well explained. With work I’m very satisfied. With the economical result, not. Right. Correct. Ok, ok, ok.

**As the last one we have the social support and relationships support that you have with the community, with family, with friends…**

Good. I also have my own stablished criteria. In the fact, two areas. From me to them and from the to me. From me to them, I’m super happy because I work at a 1000%. I’ve told you, I put myself aside and I work for others. Yes. And I know that little by little… It is not something that here, the conformist people will thank you. “Oh, he is opening my eyes”. But I know that that silent action of mine has results. Work quietly and let your success be all the noise. Then, from me to them, everything is very good. From them to me? There is a lot to improve, there is a lot to improve. But I don’t criticize them, you know why? They don’t have that confidence, that self-determination, that spirituality. They don’t have it. They don’t have it, why? Because they have decided “don’t come and complicate much my life and my life…”. Yes, yes. Obtuse, obtuse. No. But I decided the opposite, so now with many people, is when all of this takes sense. Makes sense. And to me, it has all the sense of the world but to them… It is like they have envy or anger… “what is he trying to say to me?”. Hey, you’re not that important to me. You are a guest in the movie of my life. You’re not a main character. It is just that I have the greatness that I want to share my knowledge with the whole world. I don’t care what you think. It does not go together. It is not a war between you and I, you know? It is something that I put out there in the world for the one that wants to pick it up, you know? Totally.

I can summarize that… I don’t want to be egocentric because I hate ego. But I’m here and my people is here, you know? Both when up and when down. But you know what happens, the best of life? Sometimes life surprises you and a conational of mine, like Alfonso, who is a kid really in his place, very serious and respected in the town due to his life path, invites me to do something like this, it gives me life, man. It was as if today someone had told me “Here, I give you 5000 euros”. I swear it to you. If I had to quantify, that I wouldn’t like to say beach or mountain, but if I had to do so, this has given me more satisfaction than being gifted 5000 euros. For real. I say it from my heart. Perfect.

**Picture of the capability cards:**

**At the end, we have a question about the trimming expenses and here we have the image we work with and here the idea is that there are different local communities that are able to provide biomass, orujo, and could be process here in a biorefinery where biofuels could be produced, in order to be used as diesel in ships, and also produce biocarbon that could be again used here.**

A complete recycling. What we have been talking but a little more towards the big scale.

**Yes. And we want to understand if it would be possible to develop a system like this here, in this area. And what happens now with the residues from trimming, for example, and are the farmers open to maybe provide it and under what conditions. And you have told me now that the wood is used as woodfire for the house or chopped…**

I catch the idea from you perfectly and I have my opinion. It is perfectly viable, sustainable to do it. You know why? Because with that abandonment and indecision that we have… We have many olive farmers but we don’t have engineers and I’m sure that in Jaen much more performance could be obtained from the whole olive process. Not only from the commercialization process but from all this biofuel process. Actually, in the interview I’ve told you there are big companies that take the orujo no to upcycle it but to keep on extracting oil. We don’t have engineers in Jaen. In Jaen we are really good to produce, I’m going to tell you, farmers, people of low intellectual qualifications, waiters, and civil guards. Farmers, waiters or civil guards. In Jaen look for all of that because we are very noble. Yet we don’t have good engineering, we don’t have it. Just by telling you that for a stick that I could by, a normal one, the brand is not Spanish. Not even… Stihl, Piedralisil… All… All… Excluding Gea… Gea is the only one from here. Gea 21 is from here. Very expensive by the way, what are we going to do about that. But all of the machinery is from outside. Therefore, in that line, this has a big opportunity here. Further on, if I were to do this, do you know what people would say? “What’s up with that one? Where does he go? Where does he think he is going?”. If you do it, they will say “man, man, man, they had come from the Netherlands to do… man, man, this has a future”. Do you follow me? Here we don’t know how to value our own thing. We don’t know to value our own thing. That’s why we give our oil to the Italians.

**And would you…**

I would participate, perfectly. Yes, yes, yes. I would openly get involved. Even more, my cooperative has an opinion like the one I’m talking about. It is ecological and inclusive. With the Oleic Union you’ll have it harder because I’ll explain… The first… You can’t call a Cambil oil union’s president… He gets 20 million kilos; you know what money movement is there every year? 10, 12 million euros. You can’t call a president and be told “oh he is with the olives, he is working”, but a guy who moves 12 or 14 million… Firstly seriousness and a prepared person, but well… notice that Juan is not… If this impacts people, it is perfectly viable. Me and my cooperative, Sociedad Trujal de Magina, would support this, I can tell you. Me, as individual farmer and as a cooperative.

**But you already use the wood and…**

Yes, I already do it and I use the wood, everything. But imagine that if I have higher capacity or a way to make a profit or reduce costs, I would do it, perfectly. Because here I have my wood but I also sell the wood. I sell a truck at 50 euros. I wouldn’t have to do so. I always have an excess. There is always an excess. In big olive groves. In small olive groves not but in big olive groves there is an excess. And I imagine that at the beginning it might be for recycling but, as I’m seeing here, I report to the cooperative some small benefits, not as benefits but as costs reduction from something else… Trimming hasn’t cost me much because from what is taken something is reported the costs are reduced. Then, perfectly sustainable, perfectly viable and most importantly, for you to always tell the farmer “Something will be obtained”. If you say “No, no, we take it away from the olive grove but you won’t earn anything”. Then they say “buah, buah, buah, I’m not interested by that”. If he will earn something, then yes. If he will earn something, yes. Handicaps that I see here, convincing large cooperatives. Convincing large cooperatives. For me, for example, you have portrayed it very well but the challenge are the large cooperatives. But now, there is another path. There are many small cooperatives here in Maina. Bomba from Mancha Real. At Güelma, Tuelma… There are many. You know why do I say this, Alfonso? Because sometimes if you take the small ones, but with prestige, and they join in… What did the EGP did? The EGP picked the best ones: Castillo de Canela, Oro Vailen… Of course we all wanted to join because they were in. It is about planification. But I think it is passionate, the project, and completely viable.

**That was all…**

Torete…

**Thanks a lot**