**16-11-2021 English transcript farmer #19 – male – Jaen - 48**

**Maybe you could start by introducing yourself?**

I’m [name], I’m a farmer and I’m also the president of this cooperative, this cooperative agricultural society, [name]. It is located in [place], the Jaen province and we have approximately 800 members, and 1600 hectares for the management of olives.

**Are you also a farmer?**

Yes, I am a farmer as a main activity.

**How many hectares do you have?**

I manage approximately 50 hectares. Not all of them are of my property, but yes, it is approximately 50 hectares being managed.

**Then you work in the fields but also as president of the cooperative. Could you describe a normal day?**

Well, it depends on the time of the year, there is one job or another, but in the season when we begin with the harvest, we begin to work around 9 am until 1:30 approximately that we stop to eat. Then we come back again at 2, 2:30, we pick it up until 5. Approximately 6 hours and a half, seven hours is what usually is worked in a fieldwork day. Then the olives that has been harvested in the day are brought to the cooperative and then we do the pertinent cue, we do the partners that are waiting to unload, and the olives are cleaned here and they are prepared for the crushing. That’s an olive day. That heaviest work we have through the year.

**And do you also work in the fields or are there workers?**

Yes. For this volume of land, I do need help. Not all year long but in certain seasons, like for example during the harvesting it is required to get people from apart. In former days most of the exploit was made by the family, fathers and children, but nowadays it is more complicated due to the labour standards, and because the children are studying, maybe they have another job. They usually don’t have the vocation of helping the parents and then we have to look for another system to harvest the olives.

**How many workers do you have?**

Well, during the harvest season I get approximately 10 people and then during the year I get help maybe from 1 or 2 people in a certain season, punctually, for other jobs.

**And they’re not family?**

No, no. They are hired workers. Normally, the work force that is still in the fields tends to be foreign. There is little local workforce because here there is an industry that absorbs a lot of the local workforce.

**What is it that you enjoy doing during the day?**

The truth is that I enjoy... I am certified in labour relations. I worked professionally in consultancy for a while but I like more working on the fields. So, I like any field work, especially the trimming. The trimming season, is the season I like the most.

**Why?**

Because it is a thing that I learned from my father, from my grandfather, and it is a task that I like. It is a very important task to get a harvest and then it is a task that I take care of personally.

**And aside from work, what is it that you do to rest?**

Being with the family and some small trip but the truth is that there is little free time left in farming. There are always things to do.

**Always?**

Yes, when you are autonomous the truth is that you get little rest.

**Is there something that you would like to change?**

The truth is that I would like… I look at it from another perspective, from the most professional perspective, I would like to change the exploit to be able to mechanize it even more because we are starting to have many problems with the work force. And then there is rentability. The years when the oil is cheap, in our olive grove, here in Jaen, we use a lot of the workforce and then we can’t compete with olive groves that are way more mechanized.

**So, do you live here in the town, in Martos, or do you live in the countryside?**

No, no. I live here in the town.

**Who do you live with?**

I live with my wife and three children of mine.

**How is live here in the town?**

Well, the truth is that Martos is a relatively big town and here we have most of the utilities so life here is quite comfortable. We have the capital, Jaen, we have it very close. In a matter of 20 minutes, by car, we are there. There are more supermarkets, cinemas and more. The truth is that here you live comfortably.

**Do you feel safe here?**

Yes, truth is that it is a very peaceful town. Here there aren’t, except for specific cases, much trouble.

**What type of energy sources do you use at home?**

At home, mainly electric because we used to have, for heating, we used to use olive pits as biomass, but due a little to comfort, in particular, I decided to change it for hydrothermal. Then we have the whole house with electrical system. The next thing are solar panels when possible.

**So, you don’t use them yet?**

No, not yet. I do think of making an investment whenever I can on solar panels.

**So, you don’t use the olive pits, firewood?**

Firewood from the fields I do use, but a little. Because the season when you would like to be in front on the fireplace I’m loaded of work and I can’t enjoy it. Then I use little firewood.

**And has anything changed in the access to energy or water?**

The energy has reached some pretty high prices levels lately and regarding the consumption with the previous heating system I haven’t noticed much difference. This year I don’t know. This year probably I will. But when I changed the olive pits for hydrothermal truth is that I had a very similar expenditure.

**Very similar?**

Yes. Just that I had more workforce, I had to have a storage silo. It was more complicated for me.

**What relevance does the natural surroundings have for you, the environment?**

Well, for me it is fundamental. For me it is fundamental. Actually, I’ve been already for some time promoting the idea of the ecological olive grove here with my partner and it is very hard for them. I did take the decision for this year to get certified as ecological, to start. This campaign I have it already transitioning so that after three campaigns like this I can produce ecological oil. Because I understand that for the type of olive grove that we have here, it can be a solution.

**Do you do it with all of your trees or part of the property?**

Yes, I decided to do it with the whole operation.

**And why did you decide it?**

I don’t know. I don’t think it will change too much the way I do things. And when I do something, I don’t like to do it, like people say, “half-backed”. I like to do it all. And if it doesn’t work? I change everything back. But starting with it I plan to carry the whole operation the same way.

**How was the transition process?**

Well, I’ve been working with vegetation cover for a long time, with trimming-waste chips, for a long time already so I enrolled in a course, almost a master, about this kind of farming and I realized that I didn’t have to change much the way I work on the fields. I simply needed to change a consumable for another one and little more. Then I decided to do it. This cooperative is in a second-degree cooperative which is DCOOP and at DCOOP we have significant sales of ecological oil. We even require, from our partners, we require more ecological oil. I think this can be a good option when the conventional oil is cheaper, with the ecological oil there is a difference.

**Yes, so you get a better price. Has there been changes in your natural environment during recent years?**

It is true that for agriculture people maybe use a little of herbicides and soil tillage, but it seems, at least in the Martos region, it’s been many years that there is less tillage, there is more covers, and well, it seems that it is being respected a little more. Also, for many campaigns, we’ve been punishing on the topic of technical advice for the use of the active matter, for example insecticides, herbicides, etc.; trying to instil it in the partner so he won’t overuse it, that he uses the strictly necessary. But these changes are very slow since we don’t see the effects in that exact moment, it is seen in the following campaigns. The changes in agriculture are complicated. It requires time because people won’t see in the short term and by not seeing it at the short term, they won’t assimilate it. But well, it is a matter of keep raising awareness.

**And could something change in that area?**

To my understanding, yes. The thing is, I think people change the most when they see things so until someone won’t settle on doing things in a specific way and see the results, it is very hard. Here in Jaen, in the olives farming, the ecological topic has always been associated with olive groves that have been abandoned. Production was too low and for the region of Martos specifically, which has always been a region of high yield, it was not seen as a good thing. It was seen in the area of mountain range where olive trees have low production, there people do have more awareness about ecology. Here it will take more efforts but I believe that with time it will progress.

**Since when have you been doing this work?**

In the field? Always. Since I was a kid, my family has been a farmer’s one. I would always join my father and when I was studying the bachelor, I would help my family on the weekends. I’ve always. And then professionally following 2003 when I decided to stop doing other kind of jobs and focus on farming. I’ve been autonomous since 2003.

**Before 2003 what did you do?**

I worked for 3 years doing labour, fiscal, and accounting consultancy, and before that studying my bachelor and other studies.

**And why did you decide for this area?**

Truth is I liked it a lot. I didn’t find myself comfortable in an office all day long. No. I preferred better working outdoors because since I was young, I always helped my father in the fields. It was what I liked and when I saw the opportunity to make it my source of livelihood, I decided for it and I exclusively pursued it.

**The property you own is from your father?**

Yes. The property is a family one and from leases or agreements, like renting, with other owners who can’t work it because they’re away, they’re too old or whatever, then I manage it for them.

**How did you learn?**

By looking at my father and later on getting education by doing courses and stuff, but mainly from the experience of the elders.

**Is there something that you could like to change?**

Like I told you, aside from modernizing the operation, I do feel very comfortable at work. I don’t need of much changes. But I would like for farming to be seen as an option for the future. I notice that young people don’t want to do this. The generational replacement is very complicated since it is not a company that is always profitable. You assume the risk and then the year can be profitable or not. Then young people look for other options. I would like that there was people that could work on this and live comfortably, because you can live well.

**Is it something the cooperative is working on?**

At the cooperative we try from trying to get the best prices and pass them on to the partners to trying to reduce their managements costs by facilitating them cheaper consumables, providing technical advice so they use the strictly necessary, and what I try to give to my partners is a lot of information. Everything that I learn around I try to pass it on but the thing is that a farmer is a person that functions by tradition, from what he has learned, and very little times you’re able to teach them new things. If he’s not receptive he won’t learn it but its ok, we try it. We try to advise them to make the operations more profitable.

**Do you do something for the young people?**

Yes, the problem that we have here… Specifically the cooperative makes many seminars for young people and women who are incorporating into agriculture and I’ve done seminars for my partners, seminars for women, but truth is that young people don’t have any interest in joining agriculture.

**What do you do for women?**

We’ve done formative seminars. Most of the times properties are shared because most of the times the properties are inherited from parents but it is truth that most of the times the management is carried out by the husband, by the men. But we have done seminars here to teach them that the women can be responsible of her production, that she can be a member of the ruling council. This year we had elections, we’ve been re-elected once again and for my ruling council I incorporated two women because I understand that they can provide an interesting point of view. Also, they are farmers, not as their mine activity but they are involved in the management of their property, they know about it, and I thought it was interesting to have women in the ruling council.

**It is not usually like that?**

Usually not. It took me a lot of effort to convince them but at the end they accepted.

**About moving around. Do you go to many different places?**

Yes, every once in a while. The thing is that we are very homey. My wife works too and the weekend is usually to do things at home, spend time with the kids if they have exams. The truth is that we go out little, every once in a while, we do a small trip. To the beach if it is summer season or to the mountain range, we also enjoy it a lot, the countryside, and rest for a couple of days.

**Would you like to change something about that?**

Not really, I don’t think it is necessary. With a couple of days at the beach I have more than enough. I’d like to spend more days at the mountain range which is something that I like more, go more times, but there are family situations that don’t allow it so.

**You are very active in the cooperative; you are the president. Are you active in other organization? Political organizations?**

Yes, as the cooperative president I’m the representative of this cooperative at DCOOP, the second degree cooperative. On top of that, on top of representing the cooperative at the oil board, I’m vice president in that ruling council.

**Why are you active in that?**

I think it is because I don’t like football, I don’t like bullfighting, I don’t like other things. This world, when I first joined it, it really called my attention, at least in this cooperative, I don’t know about the rest, these positions are voluntary, we don’t charge anything for this job. But I liked this topic, I learn more through time, I’ve keep going to sessions, meetings and more, and the truth is that it is like a hobby. Truth is I take it as a hobby. Yes, this allows me to move around a little more because we normally have the meetings at Antequeda(?). Some other times we make an instructive trip to somewhere, to some experimental property, anything, and this allows me to travel a little more.

**Are you also active in politics?**

No. Not in politics, not in politics. It is not a topic that interests me too much. It is a little complicated. I help my partner from here, I help him as with as much as I can. I get all the information I can and I transfer it to them, but the truth is that I don’t like the topic of politics.

**How is the relationship with local politics?**

It is actually pretty good. There is a young government team, we are acquainted with most of them and we have a good relationship. The thing is that many times the interests of the city council are not the same as the company’s.

**In what sense?**

In the sense that maybe they want to do projects that at the political level they’re very beneficial for them. But at the end these projects are paid by the cooperative, if they are cooperative projects. But the cooperative can’t pay for everything. There are things that might be profitable and other that maybe not, even if they’re very mediatic.

**Do you have any example?**

Well, sometimes they come with companies… A little while ago we had a meeting with a company that works on raising some larvae that transform the olive pomace into biofertilizer and livestock feed. The project was interesting but, well, we don’t know to what point it is developed since there is not a plant. There is another project that is further developed with the black soldier fly, I don’t know if it sounds familiar to you. They presented that as a solution for our orujo and such, but it required an amount of money. But that they wouldn’t finance it. They would present the project but it had to be financed by the cooperative and that has always happened. The city council, if it works, it is politically spectacular but the money is brought by the farmer and if it doesn’t work, the one who put the money is the farmer and the one who gets the debt is the farmer. That’s why we can’t get involved in that type of projects until we can see that they really have the profitability they claim.

**Do you feel represented in politics?**

Well… Truth is that local politics do a lot of things. The thing is that I understand from the perspective of the president of the cooperative, I understand that being liked by all of the citizens in the town is complicated. They’ll have to take some decisions that I’ll like more and some other that I’ll like less but I understand that right now the city council is working very food. They could work better, supporting agriculture, because here the industrial topic is very developed and they support industry a lot because I understand that it captures a lot of population and generates a lot of money. But the olive grove here in Martos is very important and often it is lacking support.

**Your income depends a hundred percent from olive farming?**

My personal income depends a hundred percent from agriculture and then there are is the income from my wife’s salary. She works as a public servant in the Andalusia’s board and we have that at home.

**Do you think you can have a good life from the income from the olive grove?**

To live well from the income from the olive grove you require of a certain volume. Here in Martos plots are very small. I don’t know the average in the cooperative. I calculate it shouldn’t be more 3 hectares per farmer and with 3 hectares you can’t properly live. No, because the traditional olive grove generates a lot of expenses, especially in workforce. And the oil’s prices are very variable because of the mountain range environment. The years when there is a lot of harvest they go down by a lot and the years when there is little, they go very high. And we depend a lot on climate because here we don’t have irrigation. It is all from the rain so there are drought seasons when the harvest is low and it also influences. Then you can live from farming having certain volume and working it yourself. If it has to be done by external companies and hired workforce, it is very complicated.

**For you with 50 hectares?**

I can say that I can get a very decent salary. I also do some other jobs outside of my property in certain seasons that complement the returns from olive grove. Then I can live as if I had a payroll. You just have to have a savings system so the years that you don’t have a harvest, you can keep on living.

**Oh, so you have savings, you can save?**

Yes. Usually farmers are saving people.

**What type of jobs you do at other properties?**

Mainly trimming. It’s the only thing I do outside of my plot.

**If you could generate more income from olive farming, what would you spend it on?**

I think I would invest it in further improving my plot. I don’t think of doing other kind of investments. Maybe something more related to free time, maybe, yes. My wife really likes the beach and she really feels like having a house at the beach. But if we don’t have a house at the beach maybe instead of going 5 days to the beach, we could go 15 or a month. But I would mainly spend it in improving my plot’s efficiency.

**Particularly the efficiency?**

Yes, mainly yes. And then after I’ve completed that, expanding the plot.

**Are you satisfied with the life you have?**

Truth is I am. I can’t complain. I do what I like and no, I can’t complain.

**Are there things that you want to achieve? Do you have dreams?**

Truth is that I would like, well that, achieve a better efficiency in my plot so I could stop doing other jobs elsewhere and I could focus exclusively on my plot. And that my son, if there is any that likes it, could live out of it. That’s what I would like. That it stays in the family.

**You said that you had education and studies. What kind of studies?**

A bachelor. A bachelor.

**And now do you still attend workshops?**

Yes, but I attend workshops more focused on agriculture. More than anything in the free time that I have, I can learn more by getting it from engineers. Getting technical knowledge that I can apply on the fields. Because I don’t have technical knowledge, it is all from experience.

**Do you think you have enough opportunities for that?**

I do think there is a lot of education available. You have to dedicate it a lot of time and it’s not always possible. But education is available online and the Andalusia’s board offers a lot of instruction. I think it is very accessible.

**How is your physical condition? Is it a very physical job?**

Truth is agriculture is a very physical job but in the old way it was more demanding. Now with machinery not that much effort is required. In the old way it was because everything was manual and required a lot of physical effort. In fact, older people, I remember them and from what my dad used to tell me, were in quotes “old” at a younger age. A 60 years old person looked as if he was 80 and nowadays there is people who are 80 years old but they are amazing. Nowadays we get a lot of help form machines.

**How is it for you?**

I see it as any other job. I see it way more freedom than being in the industry, in an assembly line, because there all the movements are the same all day long while in the field it is not the case. In the fields there are seasons when you do a job, other seasons when you do other jobs. The effort is different and the movements are different. I see it, from my own perspective, more appealing.

**We had the understanding that sometimes in March, April, people burn the trims. Is it also the case here?**

No. Here it changed many years ago. Before it was the case. The trim residues were burnt. The fields were kept clean, very clean, from everything. From weeds, from residues. But now that has changed. There are very few people that burns residues from trims. Maybe in areas that are difficult, where tractors can’t get in. But most of the people grinds it.

**Then there is not much smoke going to the air?**

No because, as I tell you, waste burning barely happens.

**How is your relationship with the community?**

Under my understanding is good. I am a person that, due to the previous works I’ve done, knows a lot of people. Now that I’m the cooperative’s president they know me a lot. I must not be doing it too good because I have many friends. I must not be doing it too bad. With the partners, who are very representative from the town, I have a very good relationship.

**Do you think you have the same opportunities as other people in the community?**

Yes, I do think the opportunities are the same. The opportunities are the ones you seek. I have a good relationship with a lot of people so I have access to a lot of areas.

**Is there something you would like to change regarding social relationships?**

No, truth is I am comfortable. I don’t have the need to change anything.

**Do you have worries sometimes?**

Man, of course. I have worries every day. Right now, the worry is that when we begin with the season everything goes well. That in the field the workers work fine and there are no issues. And that the selling prices are good so that the people who live out of this are able to live well from it and that’s it. Then the kids, that they do good with studies, that there are no medical issues. You know, normal worries for a parent.

**Do you have someone to share your worries?**

Yes, of course, with my family and that’s it. Because at the end, friends, well some are here and some are away due to work and then they share less. When they are away, they see you less and they share less things.

**Thank you. Now we want to understand a little what aspects of life are very important to you and which maybe are less, and that’s why we have some cards that represent different categories that we have discussed now. And we want to about them one by one and if you can categorize them as more important or as little important or less important. For you, to live well, to feel good. And we begin with physical health.**

Physical health is very important.

**The most important?**

I wouldn’t know if the most important but it is one of the most important. It is very important. Yes, up there.

**Is it something you are currently satisfied with?**

Yes, truth is I am. Thank God we are healthy.

**And education and critical thinking?**

Yes, education is important, too. I wouldn’t know if… But I do think it is very important as well as being able to make your decisions with criteria is in fact very important. I would put it next to health.

**And the topic of security?**

Security well, all of them are important but I don’t know to which extend. But that one I would put it at a lower level than the rest. It is important but I understand the others are more.

**And you don’t feel issues with security?**

No.

**And mobility?**

Mobility, it depends. Here, in this area, truth is I don’t need much mobility. No, I could have my life solved without getting out of here. Yes, yes. I don’t need… Then I would put mobility at this level.

**Taking care of the environment?**

That is very important. That I would put on that level. Because health depends from that. Many things depend from that.

**Is there something you would like to change from this?**

Man, I would like for people to be more conscious about it and that we could procure doing it better. That we protected the environment more because I don’t know what our children will find.

**And public involvement?**

That I don’t see it as too important. There are maybe people who have the need of participating constantly but I don’t see it as important.

**No?**

No. I would put it at the same level as mobility.

**But you are participating a lot.**

Yes, I do participate but I participate due to the circumstances. It is not that it is essential in my life.

**Self-determination?**

Self-determination? Well, I don’t know. Yes, I understand that it is important to make your own decision and such but you also have to take others into considerations and consider everyone’s context. So, I would put it in a low level.

**Social support and social relationships?**

Yes, I see it important. I would put at the level of security.

**And you said you are satisfied in this sense?**

Yes, truth is I am comfortable.

**And mental health?**

I would put it at the level of physical health. I think all are fundamental. I think they are both linked.

**And for you it is something that you would like to improve?**

Yes, I’ve had more complicated periods but then it gets better again and I have no problem. It is something more important, very important.

**Work satisfaction?**

I think that is linked to the mental health. Because if you’re not satisfied with your work, it’s hard to have a good mental health.

**And are you satisfied with your work?**

I am. I am very comfortable with my work. I if wasn’t I would probably be looking for something else, but I am comfortable.

**Leisure, free time, time to play?**

Well, if you do something that you enjoy, there is not such a big need for leisure but I would put it at the level of security.

**The topic of spirituality, does it have a role in your life?**

Truth is that for me it has not much relevance.

**You’re not religious?**

No, I am not religious. I don’t have the need for that.

**The last one, free speech. That you can express freely.**

It is important, I think I would put it at this level. It is not fundamental but it is important that you can express yourself.

**Do you feel free to express yourself?**

Yes, truth is I don’t have any problem with it.

**Picture of the** **capability cards:**

**Thank you for that. At the end we want to show the concept we are working with, called biohub, and the idea is that we have many local communities that can provide biomass, which can be the residues from trimming but it can also be the wet olive pomace or the dry olive pomace that comes out of the process and can then be processed to generate different products like the biocarbon, that can also be used in the fields, and making biofuel for the maritime sector. What we want to understand here is if it could be done in this area and in which way. What residues can be used; what benefits can be generated…**

I think that here it would be very important… With the residues from trimming, it is too complicated. Too complicated from the perspective of the trimming residues incorporate into the soil and become a fertilizer. That’s complicated. Before there were companies that would pick all the residues for free. They would come, do the grinding and take it away, for free. Then they would sell it as biomass. But with time farmers don’t want to do that anymore because it provides organic matter to the soil. We are more conscious of that and it is more complicated. But it is true that is an important topic, is the topic of the wet olive pomace. We do have the problem with the wet olive pomace that the wet olive pomace factories are very pollutant or at least very annoying. It is a residue we must eliminate, no matter what, and that generates no profit to the cooperative, with the current system. It could be used in a different way that could generate profit for the farmer. That would be very interesting. And the olive pit and the dry olive pomace, and all those materials, I do get the feeling that more could be gotten out of them. Because there are a few companies that are dedicated to selling. They put a market price, which is usually low, and if the use could be optimized for other purposes, for example biofuels and such, then probably there would be more profitability. That’s a problem that we need to solve.

**Then it more likely with the wet olive pomace than with trimming waste?**

Yes, since with the trimming waste here is complicated. Because here they are incorporated to the soil and people prefer that they don’t leave the properties.

**Do you think all the trimming wastes are necessary for the soil or just a part?**

The thing is that the most you add… but regarding the wood, the wood is taken out of the properties. But regarding the leaves, they provide a lot of nitrogen to the soil and it is interesting to keep it. The wood is another fuel that we are giving away because there are few companies that want to that that wood and we can’t leave it in the fields. Then that’s another option for biofuel.

**Then how do you do it? Do they bring it here to the cooperative?**

We’ve looked for a man that buys it at a cheap prize but he compromises to take it away and then the interested partners bring it here, cut at the size he asks for, and then he takes it away and we get paid a small amount for it. But at least we take away that residue from the fields and due to plagues, we can’t leave in on the fields. We have to take it away.

**What benefits could a system like this could generate for farmers?**

The benefits would mainly be taking away the wet olive pomace problem, which is still a problem. Provide economic activity to the town, if with the sale of the wet olive pomace some profit can be generated It can be transferred to the partner in his payment. We can also avoid, for example there is a wet pomace factory very close to the town and when the wind blows to this direction, the town is filled with smoke and it is very annoying. Another problem the city council has with this kind of industry.

**Is this all year long?**

Usually, yes. Because with this kind of industry, since obtaining an environmental license to install it is complicated, there are only a few. And since all the cooperatives have to take the wet olive pomace, they go through all the year processing that wet olive pomace and they keep emitting smoke all year long.

**Does it also affect your health?**

Right now, I have no guarantee of anything. There are people saying that there have been cases of tumours and such, in young people, and there are people that blame having the wet olive pomace factory there. But that is not proven scientifically.

**But it is annoying?**

Yes, it is annoying. And the properties around, all the emitted gases carrying fat. When it rains, it all falls on the surrounding properties, causing damages to the properties.

**Then that is a problem that could be solved?**

It is a problem. It is a huge problem. Sure, for them it is their business but if that type of industry would disappear, and we didn’t have our problem… Because we have our problem, it is all linked. We have a problem that we have to manage through the wet olive pomace factories. But if there was another way to manage that, then the wet olive pomace factories wouldn’t be necessary.

**For the trimming waste, you said that people grind it and put on the soil. But if there are alternatives, for example the biocarbon, could that also be used on the soil?**

I don’t know if with the trimming grinding the biocarbon could… because here what we grind are sticks shorter than 10 – 15 cm. What is mainly grinded is the olive leaves. Big branches are not grinded, they are taken out of the plot. So, to my understanding, biofuel couldn’t be produced from what’s grinded in the plots. With the branches it could.

**And if there would be an alternative to the vegetation cover as it is done now?**

Probably if the farmer would receive some money in exchange of take away the trimming residues, they would. They would.

**Would you be interested?**

I would have to check many things. Because what the leaves provide to the soil is very interesting. Then maybe all of the trimming residues, not. But a part, yes.

**What do you do with the largest branches?**

I bring the largest branches here to the man that takes it away. Before my father used to have firewood heating and he would consume it at home. But not anymore, because he changed for the aerothermal one and because they’re older, moving the firewood is a complicated work. Then almost all of the wood that I get from the fields I give most of it to that man.

**Do you know the amount of wood it is?**

Last year… Annually, mine, I maybe brought him 50, 60 thousand kilos. But between all of the partners, although many don’t see the profitability and prefer to give it away rather than cut it and bring it here, I believe last year the man took over 350 thousand kilos of sticks, here at the cooperative. But man, if that were to have an interesting profitability, an interesting price… Here at the traditional olive grove a lot of firewood is produced since it is an old plant, the branches are pretty big, an important amount of wood would be generated.

**Would there be a preference of you picking it yourself and bringing it somewhere or a company picking it up?**

Man, if a company organizes to pick up the firewood, it would be an incredible solution. I proposed it many times here, especially for the grinding, organizing the partners and doing it by areas. Because we all have pieces all around the region. So doing it by areas and organizing the picking up would be interesting.

**How are decisions taken at the cooperative, regarding investments and projects?**

We are a ruling council conformed by 7 people, currently, and we track the cooperative’s needs for the coming campaigns. We consult it with the technicians that we have and when an investment has to be done, it is taken to the assembly, where all the members participate, but to the assembly you present a proposal so they can decide if it is done or not. Usually when there is a proposal, it is because it must be done no matter what.

**Are the partners open to new projects, changes?**

You have to realize that the vast majority of the partners have advanced age. Here we have many partners from 60 years and older, we have many partners. So, investments in new projects are not very clear to them. You have to explain it to them very well, but once you explain it well to them and they see it is doable, they tend to be receptive. They do see profitability.

**Thank you, a lot. I don’t know if there is anything you want to say.**

No, thanks to you. And I hope everything goes well. If there is anything such a project for this area, it might have a future. Recently, yesterday, we have a partnership with a orujera and the truth is that the profitability is ridiculous. The ones who are in the group are pretty upset and I know that this type of initiatives, if they have profitability, they could have a big future.

**Is it with this orujera?**

No, it was another one. It is also in the town but in another area. You can’t see it.

**Are you still partners?**

Yes, we began on the last campaign. It was the first year. We’ll see how it goes. But I know that if there was a project that wasn’t too expensive for the cooperative and at the end the farmer could get some acceptable profit, the project could have a big future. Because the wet olive pomace is in the hands of 4 or 5 families. Here in Andalusia there is the Tejar, a big wet olive pomace factory, I don’t know if you know it; there is the Santa Maria, the Santamaria siblings, there is the Ecológica la Marca, there is San Miguel Arcangel, and I think there is another one in Santa Fe, in Granada. And few more. There are not many more. Then, in a way it is a sector monopolized by 4 or 5, and the management… It’s easier than when we are many.

**Thanks a lot for your time.**