**Interview farmer #10 – male – Arjonilla – 59**

**What is your age?**

59

**How long are you involved in the olive sector?**

Now, about 10 years

**What did you do before?**

I was studying psychology

**Ok, and you were also working as a psychologist?**

No

**And since 10 years you work in the olive fields?**

Yes

**And before you were studying**

Yes

**Do you belong to a cooperative?**

Yes

**To this one here, [name]?**

Yes to [name]

**Do you have other income generating activities?**

No, I do only this

**Do you depend 100% on the income from the olive field?**

Yes, from what is mine, I own the olive plot.

**How much time do you invest in the olive cultivation?**

All my time, it depends, sometimes 3 hours or 4 hours a day. Depends what needs to be done.

**What is your education level?**

I have three bachelor degrees

**Do other family members help you in the field?**

No I work by myself

**Why did you decided to start working in the olive sector?**

I finished my studies and was looking what I could do, and I decided to go working in the field. The plot is from my family and I wanted to continue with it.

**How many hectares do you have?**

I have 2000 olive trees, about 50 hectares, but I don’t know for sure.

**What cultivation method do you have? Traditional?**

Traditional

**How do you do the harvest?**

Manual, with vibrator. We don’t have machines for superintensive or anything like that.

**How do you do the pruning? Also manually?**

Yes, manually, with chainsaw.

**What do you do now with the pruning rests?**

I chip it

**Everything?**

Yes

**Why do you do it like that?**

Because they are prohibiting burning of the pruning rests, there are still people that do that.

**Before you were also doing that?**

Yes I was burning it.

**How many employees do you have?**

In the harvest 6 or 7 people

**And in the pruning?**

His brother does it (*he is pointing at the men sitting next to him)*

I don’t do it, I harvest, but I can’t do the pruning

**What fertilizers do you use?**

Sulfate, cobre, sondia, poison, and herbicides

**What quantity?**

What they tell me in the cooperative. Not more and not less,

**What do you see as the challenges in the sector?**

That they don’t sell the olive oil well. Intermediates take all the benefits and we as owners of the olive plots, we don’t receive that much. They are selling the olive oil really well, but intermediates get the profit, while the owners have to make a lot of costs and puts in a lot of work. The costs are sometimes higher than the rewards.

**Do you see challenges in the area of sustainability? In the sector or in your field?**

I can’t tell you. Maybe use less herbicides.

**If you could change anything, what would that be?**

Improve that we depend less on the climate. This year it didn’t rain that much. We do everything, we take care of the trees, we put fertilizers, but then if the climate is bad, there is nothing we can do.

**So is the production less this year?**

I don’t know yet, maybe

**Do you have irrigation?**

Only in 200 trees, the rest is dry cultivation

**If you could collect and sell the pruning rests, would you be interested in that?**

Yes, if there would be that opportunity, please take it.

**What benefits could that bring to you?**

First that they take the pruning rests from the field and second that they would pay me something for it. That instead of burning it or chipping, that they use it as biomass.

**Why don’t you do that now?**

Because there are no companies that do this, nobody asked me yet if I would like to sell my pruning rests.

**Would you be open to change your practices? For example to collect the pruning rests and sell them or more ecological production?**

Maybe, but the problem is that the costs are so high, it is difficult to make changes. So if they would pay me, than I could change, but if they don’t pay me, then no.

**And would you be open to grow cover crops, for example energy crops?**

I already do that. What a lot of people do here is they grow grasses and when it is half a meter high, they cut it and leave it on the soil. Some do this, some don’t.

**If you could earn more income from the olive cultivation, how would you like to spend that?**

Invest in my field

**Ok, and why?**

That is better for me, and I don’t really need a car, or anything else.

**And how would you like to invest it then?**

Maybe to buy a new tractor, or other machines.

**On a scale from 1-10, how much interest do you have to collect and sell your pruning rests?**

10, if they would come and ask me, I would say take it all. If they can use it for something else and I can get some money.

**But now you chip it right? Also the bigger pieces of wood?**

No, the machine cannot do that

**What do you do with that?**

We take it out of the field and take it to the cooperative. They sell it, but we don’t earn anything. Nothing. The smaller branches I chip.

**We understood that sometimes people use the wood for their own heating. Do you do that as well?**

No, I don’t do that, I also don’t use the olive stones.

**Those were my questions. Do you have anything you would like to add?**

No, just that if they could offer a reasonable price, where can I sign. Where the farmer benefits. I won’t participate in anything where the farmer doesn’t get paid anything.