**F23 - 23-11-2021 English transcript farmer #23 - male - Torredelcampo - 52**

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

Yes, my name is [name] and I’m a farmer, a farmer from here from Torre del Campo, Jaen. I’ve worked in other sectors before farming, but I’ve been in farming for 10 years. Before I used to work in a cement plant next to here, which used to make a lot of residues revalorization and that’s been my professional evolution.

**And now you work at…**

In my fields. I’m an autonomous farmer, which means it is my business and my business rentability.

**And how many hectares of land do you have?**

Well, I have in total 35 hectares.

**35, ok. And is it a land owned by your family for generations or…**

Yes, family. From family of my own and from my wife’s family.

**Ok, together. And do you work together, too?**

No, my wife is a teacher, from secondary school, the institute. And I have two children. One is studying medicine in Bilbao and the other one high school and in a couple of years she’ll go to study a bachelor.

**And how old are you?**

I’m 54.

**54, ok. Can you describe to us your activities in a day?**

Well, first you wake up and look to the sky.

**Yes, check the weather.**

And then it depends on the date and pending work. Every day you have to do the farming work. I don’t like much the excess of work in farming but well, I try to carry a sustainable culture. Partially, I run an ecological plantation and the rest is an integrated plantation. And as I always say, I don’t know if you know that saying, middle ground even the virtues, which means that we shouldn’t be excessively ecological nor excessively aggressive. There has to be sustainability according to the meteorological circumstances, the circumstances… Any year… In farming one year you get a weed, other year you get another. Here we have the problem that we’ve had a 4-year drought. MISSING Changes are extreme.

**Pluviometry is very low this year, yes, it is very low and it is a problem for agriculture.**

From the water residues from Torre del Campo, they’ve made, they will make a community, after going through the cleaning plant, they will make an irrigation community for some hectares. But of course, it is maybe more expensive, but for people who has irrigation from the Guadalquivir, now we are in extreme drought therefore the irrigation is interrupted. But most of my exploitation right now is dryland.

**It is dryland and a part of irrigation?**

Not irrigation. I’m waiting for the approval to make the pond, the infrastructure and make the exploitation more profitable and suffer less. Because if it doesn’t rain, let’s say the fruit doesn’t generate the oil it is supposed to generate, the olive tree suffers from stress and the quality is not good. When the olive tree doesn’t do its cycle in a homogeneous way, well, logically everything fails.

**And for example, in the day, because harvesting is about to begin, how is a day for you during harvesting?**

In the harvesting, well, you get up… When you are an entrepreneur, you get up early to have everything… Well, normally the previous day you have everything prepared. You pick up the olive workers and go to the “tajo” as que call it here, the property, and we begin with the recollection. We prepare the machines and begin with the recollection.

**Around what time, approximately?**

We normally begin at 8:30, at 12 we have a small break, of 15 minutes, and we keep going until noon which is normally at 1:30 to eat. We eat and we finish the workday until 3:30 which make the 6 hours and a half that stipulates the law, with 15 minutes break. When we finish, well, I normally take the fruits and go to the cooperative to discharge it, maybe during noon I need to make a products trip if there is too much and then when I finish unloading, depending on the amount of people there is… Some days when we are in the middle of the season, well you can be done quite late. Then you leave, you check the tractor, you refill the gas tank for the next day, if there is a malfunctioning machine you must take it to the workshop to keep it up the next day. Well, you go through the day thinking, you go to bed, you are dreaming and all that. Two harsh months. Two, three months that are very harsh. If it rains then you can’t go and the fruit starts ripping and they’re so many that hopefully you can get all of them from the tree but, sometimes… For example, this year is a year when the fruit has ripped a lot and as soon as the cold comes well, the fruit starts to fall. That’s the every day. And during the season it is seven days a week, all without rest.

**During weekends too?**

Weekends too. If you rest is because it rained. If it doesn’t rain during thirty days, we work thirty days. But the rest of the year, well you can go… If you don’t go a Monday and Tuesday then you go on Saturday and Sunday, it depends on the circumstances. That’s the everyday. And looking at the weather, and looking at the prices, and checking if your enterprise is profitable, if it is not profitable, and that’s it.

**And with how many people do you work with?**

In the season, seven and me, eight.

**Seven and eight. Everyday?**

During the season I try to do everything myself, except for specific activities, then I get people.

**And do you think you have enough time in a day to do everything you need to do?**

Yes, yes. Logically when summer comes you wake up at… you are at 6:30 at the field, in the morning, and at 11 you go home because with 36, 37 degrees you can’t be on the field. The thing is that during the summer season there is not much to do in the fields. What you might do is with a tractor where you have air conditioning. Truth is that olive harvesting is not like other crops. In summer you till and you harvest the olives in fall, winter. Maybe fall and beginnings of winter. That’s it.

**And to rest, what do you do?**

In my free time? Walking, marching, and I try to relax a little, and do some sports. And that’s it. And enjoy of my family.

**And where do you live?**

Here in Torre del Campo.

**Torre del campo. And with who?**

With my wife and my daughter because my son is studying abroad. In Bilbao.

**And how is life in this town?**

Very good, a very calm life. We like going out to have our small beer at noon, on the weekends, and eating… Man, we try to enjoy our life the best we can. It isn’t all work. And since here there is good sun, we go out a lot, we sit on the terraces. In Jaen, even when it rains, temperature is not that extreme, and it is nice. And people go out a lot. I don’t know if you’ve seen it but people go out a lot. People go out a lot which I don’t know if is normal in your countries, we might eat at 3 pm. We have a totally different schedule. But it is nice. Here you live nicely. There is not insecurity, there is no insecurity. Kids are out on the streets, they gather together with their bicycles, their… very comfortably.

**And is there…**

Things happen like in anywhere else but to the normal extent.

**And are there things you would like to change in terms of that?**

Let’s see. I… Farming is very nice but the thing I struggle with is, for example, now that it rains and you have to stay at home and you don’t have much… When you have something to do… Now you have everything prepared for the season then that leads a little to inactivity, I might have the afternoons excessively free… Well, I like better to be a little active. But regarding everything else, man, you live nicely. The thing is that farming is not a constant thing because on climatology depends a good harvest, a bad harvest, more income, less income, and that’s the topic. But when compared to how the situation is, you live nicely.

**And what importance does the environment has to you?**

It’s being demonstrated that you need to take care of the environment. Here we reached a point at which people was using a lot of products that would harm the soil, that would erode it. The land didn’t use to erode before but due to the mechanization and the use of a lot of phytosanitary and herbicides, much harm has been done and… I don’t know if you’ve seen the fields, or where the water runs through. Then… We have to look a lot after it because right now we have to get advantage of the available water and we can’t lose the fertile soil. Then for me, as I told you, it is a sustainability. Your field should have its vegetation cover, trying to make it the most sustainable possible, try not to harm the aquifers. Try to know how to control it.

**And you said you have both integrated and ecological, too? Have you always had it?**

No, the ecological I’ve had it six years. The integrated since I started with the production.

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

Because there are places… I mean, of course, it is easy to look at the farming from outside and say “everything is done like this” but there are plots that are of one kind and there are plots that are of other kind. Plots that maybe need some work and some plots that you can perfectly leave them without harvest. Then, of course, the ecological is a lot of work because of weeds and the… You lose production, do I make myself clear? And there are plots that allow you to… I had plots that could allow me to have ecological production but there were others that I knew was unsustainable.

The ecological production, the plant, wouldn’t have a good time. It wouldn’t have its performance, its fruit. And because back in the day you were allowed to have part of your production as ecological and other part not… I think nowadays if you want to be ecological you have to get in with the 100% of your production, and it was mostly because of that. And to try it. I was one of the few that did it in dryland, in the dryland. With water the thing changes. When you have water, it is different but with dryland the ecological… it loses production. It is complicated.

**And is there something you would like to change in the topic of the natural environment?**

Man, I think we have to look over it a lot, because we like it or not, climate change exists. And we need to look over the water, the environment, the aquifers. I have that very clear. Your vegetation cover, your… to try to run the exploitation the less… the most integrated with the environment. In general, I think that is slowly being inculcated into people. But it is something that has to come from the farmer. Sometimes they say, “we incentivise the environment” and sometimes it has to come from the farmer and balance the exploitation rentability with the environment’s conservation. That’s the idea.

**And what kind of energy sources do you use at home and in the farm?**

The house is, well, electric, and city gas, for heating. And in the farm, well, the usual. The machines all run by gasoline or diesel. The car by diesel, the rest by gasoline and I don’t have either, like right now I don’t have to install solar panels or anything like that, right now that’s the energy I use.

**And do you also use the wood from the fields?**

No, not the wood. Well, some of the wood I used it at my wife’s parents’ home who have fire to heat up, but very little. And the rest I try to, the trimming wastes, to grind it and the largest ones take them to be taken away by a company.

**Ah, for a company to take it?**

Yes, and then valorise it. But that we do it together with OleoCampo. I don’t know, let’s say they get together all of the farmer and say “well, look, the wood we’ll pick it up at this place” and then they deal with companies from… now with the topic of emissions and such, well there are many companies that are interested in the biomass and such.

**And is that for all of the trimming residues or only for the largest wood?**

Mainly for the largest wood, is what they use. And then during the season, the leaves. They come to the cooperative. There are companies that valorise it when it is clean. Now there are making a lot of research with the topic of the alperujo, with the topic of… I know there were companies interested in generating gas and others to use it as alternative fuel, having a drying pre-treatment. That’s the topic I know people is really interested in.

**And do you then sell it, too?**

No, that we all centralize it through the cooperative. In the case that it is not a cooperative, with the picking up point for the subproducts. Because all those products from the olive grove are generated because of the crushing of the olives. Then you have your olive pit, your pulp, your orujo. Who is the one that really receives that product? The cooperative. The cooperative manages, it tries to manage the best way possible so that selling rentability is channelled to the farmer that has delivered these olives, by means of the payment.

**Then the farmers take it here, to the…**

The farmers really… To say in some way, the residues that we generate the most are generated during the trimming. Then, before, during trimming what people used to do was burning it. They would take wood, go home, the one who had a fire, the one that had… The rest was all burnt in the field, it was thrown in and burnt. After the introduction of trimming products grinding, the product is grinded and stays as organic matter on the fields. And the rest, the fattest pieces, were the ones that people would take, others would sell it. So, all of that is now centralized in the cooperative. We take it there; we leave it there, and let’s say, that one let’s say… To say it in some way, the olive grove’s subproduct that can generate the farmer. What is the second subproduct from the olive grove? Of course, when they take the fruit to the oil press. It is crushed but all of these residues are managed by the cooperative.

**Then you take the wood to the cooperative…**

Yes, to the cooperative or to someone who wants to buy from me. What the cooperative does is reaching someone who is interested in the product and say “look, I have these many farmers. I’ll sell it to you for this much money”, and then we would take it to the cooperative and there they arrive, it’s loaded and it’s taken to different places. For biomass… It depends on the things. Nowadays it is popping a lot the topic of biomass. Others would take it, people who would sell it for example to people at the beaches to use as firewood to cook the food in those places or the grills. Things like that. But these are then the companies that buy from the cooperative. And regarding the rest, as I said, that’s more or less what we have.

**And you have said that before you used to have another job. Why do you now do this?**

Because they closed the company, the cement plant. They closed it in 2008 due to the crisis and that’s it. Then I had to look for another option.

**And why did you settle on that?**

The farming I chose it after they closed the company, which was Holcim, I don’t know if you know that international cement company. It is Swiss but it is all over the world. Well, there was the opportunity to move to other places in Andalusia but I, due to family circumstances, old parents, all these things, and the possibility to make a career in farming and have rentability from farming, well, I came here.

**Then that one is your father’s land.**

My father’s and my wife’s, my wife’s family.

**And what is what you enjoy from your work?**

The freedom there is. That you are owner of your time and you are… doing things right you… Nobody orders you around, to say it in some way. And then… you suffer a lot and then you see the reward, from a whole year, in the final production, seeing that the plant is ok, is healthy. You worry a lot of the possibility of the plant having a disease and the whole thing and it is rewarding, yes.

**And how did you learn to work in farming?**

Well, little by little. They gradually taught me and I gradually learned. There are things that I do better, some other things are done for me, it depends. There are things that still, I know how to do them but I prefer for more professional people to do it for me. For example, trimming. It is very important in the olive grove to maintain the production and not everybody trims the same so there you have to follow the criteria of someone who understands it.

**Then trimming you don’t do it yourself?**

Yes, I do some of the trimming but with other trimmers that come with me. I hire them and we do it all together. But I go, dealing a little with the issue.

**And are you looking to learn new things or…?**

Let’s say the olive grove is very… It is all… Everything has already been invented, as they say. What they’re looking a lot for is the local vegetation cover, to avoid erosion. These things you gradually learn them. Almost all of these are according to the current environmental normative, which there are more every time, and well, learning everything else… As I tell you the olive grove is mechanized. The problem here, in the olive grove, in Jaen is that it is a traditional olive grove and mechanization is still very manual. It generates many jobs but the costs are high because the workforce costs go up and the prices aren’t good. And that’s it. That’s how it goes. I think that without help from the CAP, a traditional olive grove would be totally unviable.

**Ok. Do you receive help from the CAP?**

Yes, from the CAP like every farmer.

**And how do you learn these new things, like the vegetation cover?**

Mainly OleoCampo, generates many workshops and they’re very aware of the regulations and they train us, farmers. Within the cooperative there is a training budget with which they usually do workshops of specific things so that you are aware of the regulations and everything.

**And are you then active in Oleocampo, the cooperative? Are you active, do you have a role in the cooperative?**

Yes, I’m the vice president of OleoCampo.

**Vice president. And why do you have this role? Why do you…**

Because I was present at the time in a cooperative, I was chosen president member, and after the fusion of the three cooperatives, in OleoCampo for one of the charges I happened to become vice president but it was… We don’t really have a remuneration; do I explain myself? We are not paid for this. We just spend the time. But well, it is a way to learn, to do something with your time. Not everything has to be to deliver the product and stay at home. I think you have to fight for things.

**And are you also active in other organizations or politics?**

No, politics don’t suit me. Every time less. Because of the people, I don’t like them… Well, I have my ideology, I have my ways of being, but I try to be a person politically correct. Not everything is one way nor everything is the other way. I think there has to be a politic based on looking, based on having rentability, but at the same time being socially… Helping the ones in need and such but with an order. Not everything will be… I don’t know how to explain. Not everything can be help nor everything can be profits. There have to be an equilibrium. Therefore, socially it has to be… Socially it has to be engaging but you also have to look if you exploitation generates profits, it will socially contribute with jobs, with society. Of course, here in Spain, confrontation between people is being sought politically but that I believe doesn’t lead anywhere. That doesn’t lead anywhere and for real it seems that… I’ve always said that the world evolves but we learn from the oldest and here in Spain well, we can’t re-invent history, rewrite history. Let’s look over my son’s future, everyone’s future, without confrontation. I don’t know, that’s the politics I follow.

**And how is the relationship with local politics, for example here…**

I get along the with major. The thing is, really, town’s majors have political affiliations. They’re from a political party but they’re your neighbour then I’ve always believed that there shouldn’t be political parties in towns. It should be that good managers, good neighbours should be the ones that run the… until they politicize, I don’t know if it is the same in your country, but they politicize a lot. It seems as if there are people that finishes a degree and the first thing after they finished, they look to join a political party to find a place to earn money… And that’s it. It is like everything. I think that at the local level there is mor of a neighbour’s relationship so you don’t look too much to the politics.

**And do you feel represented in politics?**

Here in Spain right now, no. At the local level they’re not doing it wrong, either. At the Andalusian level, they’re not… They have their good things but at the Spain level, no, because as I was mentioning I think it is absurd to shake the past, it is looking for tensions. I think a coherent politician must look for consensus and in fundamental issues, I think there are three main issues in life, which are access to education and safety, these issues should be a total consensus within politicians and here, since there is democracy, we’ve had, for example education, 10 or 12 laws and every time a political party goes into office they put one, each time another goes into office they put a another one, when I think education is an issue that should be a consensus for everyone. The same goes to health, it should a consensus for everyone at least since health is… Then, we are divided in autonomous communities and there are autonomous communities that have a separatist feeling and the society has inculcated this separatism into young people. And I always the same, if we are united and if Europe is the union, if Spain is the union, the cohesion of autonomous communities is Spain and we all will feel together its diversity, its differences, its languages, its respect for everything. But, what do I know, there is some evil, some evil behind, that seems… I don’t know, maybe it is how I feel, if someone who thinks differently will say that I don’t… Might not agree with me, do I explain myself? Which I accept. You have to accept what is agreed on but here in Spain it is not possible that what 600 000 people agree on is what will guide a country’s future. That’s not fair. Why would a vote from a Catalan be worth more than one from an Andalus? And why would the vote from a Basc be worth more than the one from an Andalus? Because the negotiation… For me a vote is a vote. We are all people. And within the big parties, within all political parties there should be a common wellbeing, which as I tell you, for me is safety, health and education. Mostly education because education is people’s foundation. And here in education they’re doing… Some awful laws on education are being made, awful.

**And how it is for you, did you have opportunities to have education…**

Different education? Yes. Given the life ways I started to work in a Unintelligible and I ended up… I have secondary studies and therefore… And of course, life ways took me to be where I am. And well, adjusting to what comes. Here in Spain, we might be more, for example, maybe young people not so much but we are more from the town, from the locality. It is harder for us to leave; it is a thing that we haven’t had much in Spain. Not for young people, young people leave to work in the Netherlands, to Germany, they go wherever they have to go. They have different ways. It’s different, in language and in everything.

**And do you go out a lot to different sites, different places?**

Yes, I like to travel. When it is possible well, I travel. To different countries, it depends.

**Ok, also holidays?**

Yes, I try to enjoy from vacations. Some years I can go, some other years I can’t go. It all depends on the circumstances. Now with covid issue we’ve been locked and that’s it. Traveling is complicated.

**With the…**

With coronavirus, it is very complicated.

**Yes, yes, but normally you feel free to move.**

Yes, I like Europe a lot. Italy. I’ve been around Rome. I like Paris a lot. I’ve been in London. Your zone I know it less, which is the Netherlands and all that, I have interest in it. And I like Spain a lot. Spain is very pretty. Spain is beautiful. Going to Asturias, going to El País Basco, going to Galicia, Castilla y Leon, Andalusia, Sevilla, Cordoba, Granada… In Andalusia we have a sense of life very different to other places. It doesn’t mean we don’t work; we do work. Because there is habit of saying that we work little but of course we also like to enjoy. That’s how it is.

**And then your income totally depends from olive farming?**

My own, yes. In the family income there is also my wife, who also works. But my own they come from the olive grove.

**And do you think you can live properly with this income?**

You can live well if there was some consistency, do I explain myself? You live, you live well, but you also can’t… It depends on the expenses everyone has. If your kid is studying abroad. It all depends of these circumstances. Living comfortably? Well, yes. I can’t complain.

**And can you also save? Do you have savings?**

Yes, I save. The thing is I also really like investing, too. Let’s see, investing in the company when you have to modernize machinery, all that topic. If you have to make investment in the land to fix something in particular, I like to invest. I think it has to be a little dynamic, it is not all... And saving, you also have to save. The thing is that when you have kids studying abroad there is less saving, or there is barely any savings. But anyways… Savings is their future.

**And if you could get more income from the farming, how would you like to spend it?**

Well, normally… Well, here you would get an apartment, depending on the person. I personally don’t like it. I tell you, I prefer to travel. To travel and to save to have everything planned for later, for the future of my kids, for anything they might need or for us, because you never know what could happen. I like saving but I don’t excessively save.

**You also enjoy…**

To enjoy and to enjoy the family.

**And do you feel satisfied with this life?**

Yes, I don’t feel bad about it. It goes all the way around. When you start with the olive season well you have… For everything to come out right, that there won’t be accidents, there are no… There are so many things and things go all the way around but you don’t have a bad life.

**And do you have dreams for the future or things to accomplish?**

Yes, my dream is for example to build a country house. That my kids are happy and they’re not lacking anything, and they have a future, and that we are all ok.

**And do you feel there is opportunity for you to accomplish it?**

Yes, I think that in the future I can have the opportunity. When the circumstances present themselves.

**Yeah, with the circumstances, the pandemic…**

For example… Yeah, the pandemic and there are also the incomes from the farming… The thing is that income from farming is ok but you have to look at it a lot because it is not like you will always say “ten, ten, ten”. Sometimes it is five and you have to take from the tens to afford the farming, do I explain myself? Not every year it is earning money from farming. There are years… I try to at least cover the farming expenses plus something to be left for the house. Then if there is excess, well, saving. Saving and investing. That’s the thing.

**And how is your physical condition?**

Good, I’m not bad. Now… Sometimes my bones ache because my going over the fields is very regular and it depends… But aside from that, good.

**Because it is physical work.**

Yes, it is physical work. Trimming branches, you have to make effort. Man, doing it properly… But yes, sometimes there is physical work.

**But you can do what you want to do?**

Right now, yes. In some years from now, I don’t know. Maybe.

**You’ve said you feel satisfied but you also have worries.**

Yes, the usual worries for a farmer are for it to rain, for things to work out, that you won’t have to… That you go one day to the fields… Especially, because when you are alone you are more independent. Because if something breaks down, you don’t really care. I mean, you just fix it. But when you are with people, with workers, you want for everything to go ok, that there won’t be no issues, that the worker is comfortable, everyone working and that’s it.

**Yes. And do you have people you can share these worries with?**

Yes, with my woman, mainly. I don’t like sharing it because I don’t want to worry her too much because often she tells me “The problem is you think about things too much, what it has to be will be”. When I say “I don’t want…”, “Hey, relax, what has to happen will happen”. But I get worried, because that’s my personality.

**Thinking a lot about things.**

Yes. That everything goes ok, what will happen in the future, in the exploitation and all the stuff. But yes, I get worried, but anyways.

**And how is your relationship here in the community?**

Good, well integrated. I belong to associations in the town.

**Ah you do? What organizations?**

Yes, about football. A club for the Atletico de Madrid. And that makes you interact with people from the Atletico, and from the Real and from the Barcelona. We know each other. I have… I participate a little in the community, let’s say in the everyday, speaking with people and such. And then within OleoCampo of course, If you have a position in OleoCampo it is a lot about talking to people.

**Are there things you would like to change regarding relationships with people?**

No, I don’t feel bad about it. I feel ok.

**Now we would like to talk, because we have talked about different topics, and we would like to know what relevance they have for you in order to feel good. To live well. And we would like to talk topic by topic and get to know what relevance they have, if they’re more important, irrelevant or less important. And first comes social support and social relationships.**

**On the top? And why do you put it there?**

I think that within a society, when someone lives in a community, you have to be able to enjoy of everything and provide to others. I understand that otherwise there is no society. If we stay within ourselves, I believe that makes us be egoistic and that’s the worst there is.

**Then it is very important.**

Yes, yes. I like it.

**A satisfactory job.**

That too is very important.

**Very important?**

Because having a satisfactory job you can share with others your… You feel good and if you feel good you transmit it.

**And do you think you have a satisfactory job?**

Yes, yes. Satisfactory, in general. Yes. It could be better but I don’t want to be rich. It is ok, it is ok. Being satisfied with your job transmits to others, to also be social.

**And leisure and free time?**

This one I leave it here.

**That one in the middle.**

Yes. Whatever provides you. Then yes because you need to feel good and sometimes to disconnect but it is not as essential. Maybe it comes, when you don’t have that leisure and free time, when you may say “I wished there was more”. But right now, under these circumstances it is like that.

**Right now, you’re satisfied with your free time?**

Yes.

**And physical health?**

This one yes, this one… As soon as you’re doing bad with physical health, that’s it. It is fundamental for your job to have a good physical health, it is important.

**And the public involvement?**

That, I couldn’t care less.

**At least…**

I mean, participating in the community but… The thing is that right now it doesn’t interest me, the topic of… When we talk about the topic of public participation in political parties… Let’s see, if you’re talking about public involvement as the president of OleoCampo, then yes. In the bottom… Do I explain myself? The thing is it depends on the circumstances. If you talk to me about politics, I tell you “What do I care” because I don’t care but if you talk to me about contributing with my work as an executive here at OleoCampo, for the well-being of others, then yes. That is important, then that we have to see it from that perspective, ok?

**And the topic of safety?**

It is fundamental. You have to have a lot of safety.

**And safety in what sense?**

Mostly, safety for my kids, so that they can go out to the streets and not have any accident, that my daughter won’t suffer any kind of violence and these things, well, they are important. Yes, it can be put on the top, too. Because if you can live in a safe environment, you’ll be able to be in a better state physically and mentally. But it is complicated, in the society we live in.

**Why is that so?**

Because there are many things that could harm your environment. Not from you but external factors that could generate that conflict. Just to put it in some way.

**Because you feel unsafe?**

What do I know? Mostly because of my daughter. Of my daughter, of my son, that they can go out calmly and that they won’t encounter a violent person that could provoke them or get them into a conflict. That’s why I think that if there is safety it is always good.

**Ok. And self-expression?**

I don’t care. Let’s see, being accepted by other… One is the way one is and if you’re accepted you are accepted. And if they don’t accept you try to change, try to evolve, try to grow from the experiences from every day but… I don’t pursue to be liked by others or that someone else gives an applause or for him to totally agree with me. I am the way I am and if it is ok, it is ok. I don’t consider myself a bad person. It sort of gives me the same. Truth is I’m not that creative.

**No, but do you feel free to say anything you want?**

That I do, that I do. Well, free… It is not like I can say everything I want because then it could hurt others, so you have to know where you are and what can you say. Restrain a little.

**And mental health?**

Oh, that’s fundamental, too. As soon as you don’t have mental health… The thing is that mental health is most complicated thing there is. I understand that the mind is the most complex tool. And the one that evolves the most, the one that declines the most, and the one that absorbs the most, and… It is complicated. Mental health is fundamental in the everyday, in your relationships with people, in your relationship with work and your everyday. And mental health depends on many external circumstances. Today it might as well affect me something that yesterday wouldn’t affect me. It is according to how you are, therefore it is fundamental.

**And is that something that you would like to change or improve?**

I think I’m someone that worries a lot about things. When I was young, I had a depression that I was helped to surpass a little by… Because it was a change from maturity, from age. It was not a depression like saying “I’m a depressive person” but… it just happened. And it gave the tools so that when I feel bad, I don’t worry because I feel bad. I don’t get obsessed with saying “how bad I’m doing; how bad I’m doing”. No. I feel bad. I get up for a while. I reflect and I go back to walking. But these are tools that maybe I’ve known how to nourish and adopt. It is fundamental, mental health. Any loose, losing a family member, always affects you. But that’s normal in people. But having a good mental health and having… And sleeping well. For example, right now I can relax but when in season I don’t sleep properly.

**No?**

No, because you’re always thinking “and tomorrow how will it go? What if it rains, if there is mud, we could get stuck, and if it is a harder plot of land, and I go with machinery I have to be very careful”. Man, I do sleep my six hours, I sleep perfectly. The rest of the time I’m calmer.

**Then it is three hard months.**

Yes, they’re hard. Mostly at the beginning. What was it like? Sara? Su… how? Susan. At the beginning. Once you get into the everyday dynamics, you get used to it but the starting, the seeing how we are all doing, if we are doing ok, that’s the problem.

**Ok, ok. And the topic of spirituality? Does it have a role in your life?**

Yes, it is very important to me. The one who has God, lacks nothing. Let’s see, I have some respect towards everything. I’m not anyone to... But I do am a practicing catholic.

**You also go to church?**

Yes, I go to church but if I criticize the pope, I criticize him. I’m not the kind of person that goes “whatever they tell me…”. No. If there are things that I don’t like, I don’t like, if there are things I like, I don’t like. But I believe that, for example, the church does more good than harm. I can’t look into the… Good as in saying that church has only good, it doesn’t have it. Just as in the university only good stuff, there isn’t. Nor in the job, only good there is not. That’s deceiving yourself. But being critical, it helps me. I’m religious but I’m not excessively fanatic people, do I make myself clear? I understand, maybe this is politically incorrect, but here in the societies we have lived in, in Europe, at the base Catholicism, the catholic religion, the Lutheran, the Christianism… has been the base of Occidental society. And with all the harms it has… Because there have been many times that for example… But it allows… I think a woman is freer in a Christian environment compared to other religions where there are more oppressed when there is no reason for it. There are religions here in Andalusia that were the most… let’s say the most intelligent during… The Alhambra… You look at Muslim religions and they were doctors, it was impressive. But the same goes with Catholics that go backwards and are more retrograde than anyone else, let’s say. But I understand that mentality and freedom in spirituality is very important. I don’t know if you agree but anyways.

**And do you have enough time?**

Yes, yes, I like it. It is a way to reflect. But spirituality is also in the everyday, what we do, do I explain myself? It is not about saying “ooh”. No. In the everyday. When you’re, for example, seeing dawn at the countryside, it gives you an impressive peace and tranquillity. And you get up and contemplate and you say “oh, what a wonder”. When you see the full moon and how it goes into hiding with the tones… since here the temperature is… reddish, completely. You say “oh, what a wonder”. Completely. The sunsets. If you’ve been to Cádiz, seeing a sunset in Cádiz is the most impressive thing in the world. Seeing the sun setting by… It is gorgeous. And that makes you say, there is something, there has to be something. I want to believe there is something.

**There it is very important. And mobility?**

It is important.

**Somewhere in the middle.**

Yes, in the middle. Yes, it is important to have mobility. At the core, everything is important.

**Everything is relative.**

Everything is relative. It all depends from the perspective you look at it.

**And taking care of the environment.**

Yes, it is, it is.

**Up, too.**

Very, very important. As soon as you don’t take care of the environment we are lost. And we are currently seeing it. We have to do it in a non-drastic way because I believe that all changes have to be little by little. From one day to another you can’t tell me “We are changing all the cars…”. But we do have go towards changing all the type of vehicles. In the countryside it is even more complicated because now, for the solar energy, the electricity to have power, it is complicated but anyways, everything is researched and everything arrives. Biofuels, all these things have to be generated. Recycling, and all the topic, is fundamental, the way I understand it.

**Then it has a role in your life then.**

Everything, everything. For example, the topic of energy. Now there is a lot of investment in hybrid cars, electric cars, in biofuels, because we are now seeing that the other resources are running out. But this should have been the whole time, the thing is that before the other resources, before there were lobbies that had power over us. Then it didn’t matter. You would set a company; hire 200 people and you wouldn’t care about what was being done or not. You have to, little by little dosify the environment with your society, your context. It is fundamental. Anyways with this there is a lot demagogy being generated. Cheap demagogy. Saying “Oh, everyone”. Do you follow? For me yes, for you not. We are everyone. And for the farming it is fundamental. We have to look after it in Andalusia in all the agricultural exploitations… I tell you, we have to balance the production, the production with the… the rentability with the environment.

**And the self-determination?**

Yes, it is it important. Although that is often imposed from outside, because many times it doesn’t depend on you. The oil prices don’t depend on me. If they depended on me… I could have the objective to generate best quality oil. Well… If I see rentability and everything but… I do so rentability and everything but then you see that there are years where oil costs half of what it costed other years. I don’t understand it. There is no stability. And in general, too, stablish an objective and chase it, of course. An objective on the personal level well, that your kid has a future and be ok with the family. That’s fundamental. Like I said, it is important.

**And to finish we have education. The critical thinking. On top of everything.**

Our society’s cancer is not having philosophical nor critical thinking. Thinking that we are the best. No. You’re not the best. And then having enough knowledge, like you say, a knowledge… What’s the problem? Nowadays, governments don’t want people to have critical thinking so they won’t criticize what they do. Well, no. We have to be more critical and demand more. And to respect, too. It isn’t all rights. We have rights and obligations. And critical thinking allows you to be freer. Be totally freer. That is clearer than water. Without that thinking… For me education is fundamental.

**Then is that also something that you would like to change or improve?**

On the social level, yes. On the social level, yes.

**And on the personal level?**

At the personal level I try not to. I try to be critical. I try to… be ok with myself so I can be ok with others. But I try to criticize even… As I told you, even being religious I can criticize what I might consider is a person I don’t agree with. Not because he might be the boss, he has to be telling the truth. No, you have to have critical thinking. Education, I tell you so, is the base of society. Free people are those who have a free mind. That’s clearer than water. The ones who can criticize. What is it that happens? These societies tend a lot to, in this type of politics, get settle with what we are given and saying “well, if they’re giving it to us, there is no problem”. But you have to say “Ok, but why are you giving it to me?”. Because I’m not capable of doing this but if I could do this maybe I could provide more to society that what they’re giving to me. I don’t know if you follow me. And the subsidies too. Every time you’re given a subsidy… When you’re given a fair price for the product, subsidies are ok. What is happening here? There are products coming from Morocco, with less traceability, with less phytosanitary controls than ours, well, all of this costs us money. The fact that we have a sanitary control over the farms, the costumer’s final product costs us money. Then there are products coming from third part countries that don’t comply to anything… That’s not fair. If socially, there in Morocco, a person is given very little money to do something that here it is stablished to require certain costs, it is not fair. Then that’s why there come many… Oh, when people say the European help, well, of course. To compensate a little that power loss that comes from third party countries. But since there are many commitments between Europe and Morocco or Europe and Tunisia, and they don’t want to have a confrontation, then they have to agree. If it was on me, would rather not having any kind of help. As long as the product was profitable. Now, if you tell me that with that amount that is being paid for the oil, I will be able to live, well, no. And if it is not profitable, the region gets lost and these towns you see would be ghost towns. That’s it. I’ve always said that the olive groves are the largest forests there are… some of the largest forests there are in the world. Then, let’s admit that it absorbs CO2 and emits oxygen. That’s fundamental in life. Then, it has always been considered a crop but I consider it more of a forest rather than a crop. Let’s do the math, 66 million olive trees. Where do you see that? I have because I live here but I can imagine that the first time saw Jaen you could have said “What is this?”. You don’t expect it.

**Thank you very much.**

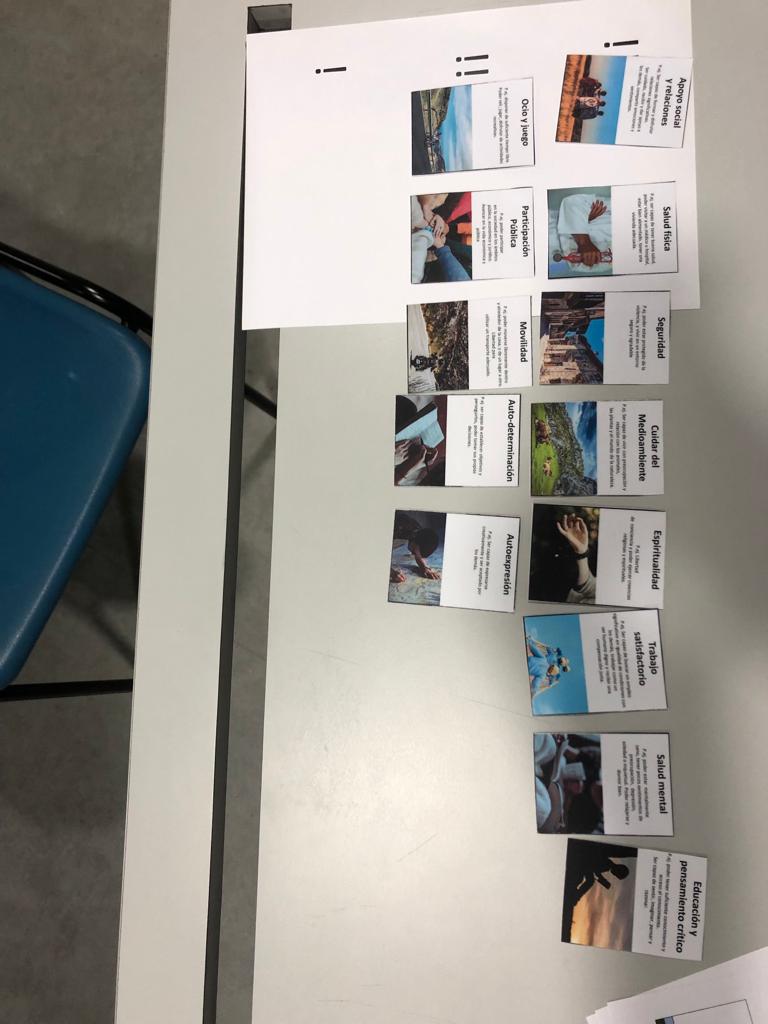
I don’t know if you’ve gotten what you wanted.

**Yes, yes. A lot. Well, we have some questions. A few questions. More regarding your estate and what is it that you do with the trims. Because you’ve said that you grind it and sell it to…**

No. Normally the small trimming residues, not the big logs, that we grind it and leave it as vegetation cover. Now people are saying that if you have a lot… I normally don’t have… There are people that leave the cup… the grinds layer and that causes that the weeds won’t grow. I technically don’t have that problem. It is ok. Because I adhere it to the soil. I go over it a little with the cultivator, I don’t do an excessive job but I adhere it to the soil so it grinds. And the rest of the big logs we try to take it to… Now, there are more and more companies that use it to generate… for electricity generation.

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

Man, I think it is the most sustainable. I think that if I start to burn the trimming residues, I would be doing an environmental barbarity. It would be cheaper for me, but I think that in that sense, it is the most sustainable. Right now. Maybe there will be a moment in which that trimming waste could be transported to a biomass plant, phenomenal. I see that as perfect. But not right now.

**Picture of the capability cards:**

**That’s what we wanted to show you. The idea or concept we work on. And the idea is that here there are different local communities that could provide biomass, such as trimming waste or alperujo, for example, that could be processed here, in a biorefinery. They could be transformed into biofuels such as biodiesel, for the maritime sector, and subproducts can also be obtained such as biochar, for example, which can be used again by the communities. And we would like to understand if here it would be possible or viable to develop a concept like this and also…**

Let’s see. At the biomass level, these trimming wastes… The problem that we have here in Torres del Campo is that plots are small. Many owners. And then, trimming is not a constant thing. Normally one year, yes, another year, not. One year, yes, another year, not. To generate those trims and to take them to a… let’s say, a tractor that keeps behind to keep loading it so it keeps grinding to the take it to the biomass plant, well… It is complicated. To transport these wood residues, because of course, the big logs to transport them there from a pickup point, perfectly doable. Then there, to treat these biomass residues here, you have to keep well in mind that here there are some pests produce in the olive tree’s wood. If it is not controlled in the proper time. The Pulgón, I don’t know if you’ve heard about it.

**Yes, we have.**

That is fundamental but I think that in a continuous process it can be perfectly done. What happens here in Spain? The thing is that when they closed the company I used to work for, they started to stablish a biomass company but it was for the mount’s trimming waste. Being here, for the mount’s trimming waste. Why? Because they prioritized more… Because it was not considered as a crops wood… Forest’s… It was considered a crop of… It was considered a crop. Trimming waste from crops, while the rest of the mount, making mounts cleaning was considered… And they had a bonus. When… by cogeneration, that helped the company. Every time you can see more that theses bonuses… This has to be self-profitable. And it is a matter of cogeneration. At the subproduct level for biofuel, at the level of alperujo that you could consider, obtaining product for the curation, let’s say sort of compost… I think yes, in the olive grove everything is composted. You can do compost; you can do 20 thousand things. But regarding this, yes, it is viable.

**And would you be interested to provide…**

Of course. Sure, sure. This is a matter of doing a… I tell you so, the thing is, by means of the cooperative, which is what groups us all farmers, propose this. First, at the province level, then the regional level and doing infrastructure, logistics to achieve all of this. That, yes. That I see it… Because sometimes these trimming wastes instead of being used to be burnt the can perfectly be used for biomass generation.

**And for you too, the smaller branches…**

That’s… That’s the one that often is said to be… Precisely the other day we were talking, we were commented that there was a possibility that a company was interested. But of course, what happens? These machines are too big. I understand that a person who has a huge plot, prepares it well. But here it is more complicated. These branches that are smaller it can’t… Let’s say, in order to, logistically, to be able to transport them they first require to be grinded. You can’t throw an olive’s branch into a wagon. Because with three branches you fill the wagon. Now if you can grind it, it would require for you to look for the grinder of that farmer so that he can throw it into a wagon and take it, let’s say, to the plant. For that, it has to be profitable. If it is not profitable people won’t… You must aim for profitability; do I explain myself? That the cost for the farmer is… As long as the cost for the farmer is zero, I don’t think there would be any problem. But the cost for the farmer, zero. The benefit of not having to pay someone to grind for you, as an example. The cost being zero, I don’t think there would be any problem. It could be done perfectly, the small one. The large one, if you pay them for transporting it, then that’s it. I don’t care if you take it to one place or the other. You just take it to the cooperative, they tell you “Hey, I’ll give you two cents per wood kilo”. They pay you and that’s it. Instead burning it, they drop it there. The fine trimming waste, what we were discussing, is more complicated. Yes, it is more complicated but as long as the cost is zero, I don’t know, if there was a machine that while it grinds it loads it into a tractor… But of course, it has an expense for the one who brings the machine. An investment. And for the one that provides the machine, what the biomass plant gives him must be profitable. Otherwise, no.

**And what benefits do you think it can generate.**

Everything. At the end it is, let’s say, returning something that is destroyed, something that could generate an impact the environment, the benefit is to generate that the environmental impact is smaller, as simple as that. Because all of this is like everything else. This also generates its small pollution. A biomass plant is not… It also has emissions but the emission from biomass is infinitely smaller than a plant that uses carbon, that uses a more aggressive fuel. At the end it is, that what you’re doing here, is being deposited here. This won’t have any benefit, yes, the grinds can be organic matter, but if that benefit enters here, it is a common good, for everyone. No? I see it perfectly and I think it should go. Here there is a very large volume of trimming waste. Very large.

**Well, thanks a lot. Is there something that you would like to say or…?**

No, that’s it. I don’t know if I made myself clear of if the interview turned out well.