BW3 - Interview Bush Worker CCF, Otjiwarongo - 31-1-2023

Specialties/Difficulties: Very bad audio quality. People kept talking over each other and everything was incredibly difficult to understand and transcribe.

**OK. So can you start off by saying, yeah, your name, what do you do here?**

Hello, my name is [name]. Probably our machine stop now, now I'm making, and the pack I'm packing fire. Use blocks those blocks. Maybe you'll go check. There we are putting in the labels and putting the plastics.

**OK. And how long have you been in this?**

In this way. I'm from 2016, November.

**OK. And what are the big challenges?**

Anything. Any challenges anyway? No.

**You know. So everything is you are you are feeling comfortable with the work.**

Comfortable. I like it.

So yeah, so I mean worked.

Basically, I'm happy with it.

It's not trying to.

Right.

It changes the challenges even maybe I. Agree with my colleagues. Yeah, that's all. If they don't want to help me.

If I'm tired and they don't want to help me if I talk to them and get they make anything that's ten, I mean.

**And are you from [place] region or OK?**

Yes, I'm from [place].

**OK. And you there you live in the farm or you live community, OK and what are the other activities?**

I'm coming from the town every moment.

**So you were majorly involved in charcoal? And you cut like using chainsaw or. How do you cut the?**

We've been machine cutting machine. OK, OK.

**And is your family also in in the town or they area?**

There in town.

**OK**.

My parents, my relatives, they are in town.

**OK. And is how is the income here, is it enough, do you have enough income to sustain, how does it go?**

Yeah, a bit. It's not much, but.

**So much so. OK. And is it very difficult to find other jobs or like, why? How you came? To this this.**

No, I don't think I don't.

Think to find another you know. I learned more from these troubles from this.

**And like what? Like, what did you learn?**

And then how to make from wood cutting from cutting bushes that sell the bus. We are bringing to exclude them from exclude. Our we are making that travels from there we are cutting from the cutting we are putting into different steps. And learn more. Yeah, we also building chapels from firewood from these blocks we are building chapels in killing.

**OK. Yeah, yeah. And then you bring the process there.**

Processing biomass.

**Yeah, and how how long do you work? Like, when do you start? When you start working in the day, yeah, they are like specific timings you work.**

The date.

They are timing. When you start the. Machine at 7 warming up fast takes screwed up.

**OK**.

Maybe for 30 minutes before you start your warming up the extruder. From there you start takes after 30 minutes, then 7:30. From there you are processing maybe for hour then you must cause it's overheating. We are. Not doing electricity. We are using the.

**OK**.

Then we stop for a moment, then again after an hour, when it cooled down and started again.

**OK. And when do you stop?**

1:00 o'clock probably if you're adding more orders. People on then? We are working overtime when we are passing 1:00 o'clock to work for overtime that one. Hour then will go stop five over.

**OK. OK, OK. And do you?**

But sometimes we stop at 1:00 o'clock for the lunch and.

Start 2:00 o'clock.

**2:00 o'clock until 5:00 o'clock. And is it? Do you work in the during the all. The seasons. Or do you stop for winters?**

Now, now the weekends we are not work.

OK, we can see.

If you want overtime this year, then we have a good Saturday from 8:00 to 3:00. And some days from 8 to one. On Sunday, you must all rest and. Watch your friend.

**OK. And do you get extra for working overtime and?**

Extra income, yes, even for one that overtime.

Those kind of things.

**Ah, OK, OK, that's good. And do you get the income on a weekly basis, do you get daily?**

Our hourly rate.

**Hourly rates, but when do you give the money at the end of the month? OK, so every month you get and do you find? Like the same amount of work during rainy season during summer because you say charcoal, right? You can't produce charcoal when it's raining.**

Yeah, we got. Some amount every month, but if you're working overtime, it's more also since we got same but if they.

In the in the year in the Increasement promotion, then. More every day is different. The salaries income is different.

**OK, so the income changes every year based on the change, OK? And do you have like a Union because how many farm workers like you are working?**

We don't have union. I will only have committee meeting in. The in the clear.

**OK, you have a committee and what does that committee do? Is it just for the workers?**

They are taking they are. Taking for the workers. Only they're taking our problems to the miniatures. They're in the military and the Union of the company seen as the problem that we are having, the materials that they are sorted.

**OK. And do you feel comfortable wearing all the protective protective equipments? Are you OK with that or is it like yeah too heavy or?**

Come again?

**The personal equipments, like helmet, glasses, overalls.**

Yeah, we are getting if it is broken of that we're adding a strongman people telling them they give us or if they are not telling the order for us and and.

**And do you wear them all the time while working?**

Yeah. How much? If you all think it's the outside there.

**Yeah, but working. You use it. All the time. And everybody, everybody uses it.**

No, not all the time.

**Yeah and. Why? Why? Why is that? Is it comfortable? It's not comfortable.**

Even the glasses every child. But we must use. Because they say we must use. But us self.

**Do accidents ever occur?**

Accidents here.

**Just excellence. Sometimes or? No, no accident.**

OK, in. One year only. Which year was 2019? That machines he cut that later. OK. Was the first exit from the normal?

**And did she lose her finger?**

Yes, you lose 2 fingers.

**And how many people or how many workers work here? Do you know everybody or or?**

I don't know, but I.

Don't know how, I cannot remember maybe.

**OK. No issues and So what does your so the income you say it's not enough for the whole family, So what? How does it work?**

This extra income from my family, but I'm living with my mum, dad, my sisters and school kids. For me, it's not much enough, but. I'm trying.

**OK. And do you have access to electricity?**

Yeah, you were.

So yeah, that's not a problem.

Yeah, not a problem.

**And education for the kids, the schools.**

Yeah, there's twelve. Yeah, there's 12.

**OK, the school is in town.**

Don't let describe any school. OK. In town you have.

Kids, I have two.

Why does boys?

Tells me when girls 14 years old. She has an eye problem like me.

Problem like me.

Yes, I'm leaving ice problem even. She's selling because you cannot see on this. Just that classism and leave money for that.

I will try. You don't have money for glasses for it.

And she failed. But now we talked to principal and she's sitting in front for the kids near the pot top pot. Grade 7 and the other one is 2 years old, baby boy.

**OK. What is the difficulties in your daily job, your daily or what do you think is very difficult part challenge?**

Sometimes only the small. When we make. When the smoke is coming out. It's burning in my eyes but wearing. Sunglasses that safety glasses.

OK. Hey, wait.

**Your eyesight is. Not good. So can you feed properly?**

Internet economy to provide some tents even in my. I put the light on every time. If it is raining it is not nice.

**OK. But you can see the machines. Yes, I can. See OK, I can see.**

OK.

And do you get any benefits working here apart from income like? Insurance benefits.

Now we have.

We are having the pension we are having food allowance, housing allowance we are.

**OK. And that is apart from the income, it is not included?**

You know, we are even having a medical.

**OK, OK. So then you can get treatment cut then? Do it. OK. And your would you say overall working here, are you satisfied or if you want to do you see some opportunities for change? This could be better. This could be better. Do you have any? You don't want to change anything here.**

Because we are learning every time, every year, other things because. You see a new factory here.

You want to do challenges we want to know we. Have to know what product is that.

And like in your town, what does your neighbors other women do like you come here for work? Like, what does other?

They say I must look for. Them they work, job that I'm doing but. There's no job.

OK.

There are enough sibilia.

Our neighbors, they are not liking me, but some. They are working in town. But they're interested in our job.

**OK. Yeah.**

They're interested.

**They're interested in our jobs. Well, CF does not have. Enough jobs to offer.**

No and yeah.

**So that's the. OK. So just to understand, yeah, everything is for you. Everything is happy here. Like you don't want to change anything even with equipments or harvesting or. Because you say smoke is one of the issues.**

Yeah, but I'm not working mostly in the smoke.

**OK. Every day you do different jobs? Or is it one day you'll do all the jobs?**

There are different jobs I can. Come and help cutting. I can come help pattern of identical whether excluded to break up.

OK.

Because the smoke is coming out. I switch myself to other positions, yeah.

**You can you can do all the jobs. There is no fixed jobs, OK? And all the workers move around, do. You have a. Schedule like a. Plan time table. Do you have a timetable like from morning? I should work with extruder afternoon. I should work with some.**

But they actually that they appoint. Two guys who know how to how experience working.

OK.

Yeah, these two guys are operating. We get if we want the latest, we just don't help them out. But they appoint two guys. Permanently.

**OK. And do you do you see that you have as a woman, you have a lot of opportunities here in the farm or do you think that men have more opportunities than women.**

We are having more opportunities.

Because our boss say. If you're interested, you can do anything. They say if you want to learn if you must take a car and start driving.

**How nice that you learn how to drive.**

I know, but I don't even like them. Even the forklift. Skids here. The ladies are driving here.

**OK.**

But we don't. OK.

**I see. OK.**

**After work, when you go back, how you what are, what do you do like normal activities?**

When I go back. My mother cook, already or she is is preparing cook. I help her clean washing dishes. If I see the process of my daughter and my baby for you. Daddy, I think the machine washing machine. And I start washing. In hand and this morning I see it. I didn't.

I do the whole level.

Of my daughter. Out of sometimes I'm going to church.

**If I may. Ask how old are you?**

And 40 years, 41.

**OK.**

**So not sure already us was in your family. There's a lot of people have a job or.**

Yeah, my brothers and sister, we're married. They are heading in their houses. They are waiting. But in our house, I, my cousin and my big sister, they are not working at our place. It's only me and my mother and father. They are all they're giving social credit. They really that. It's only useful thing out of our house.

**OK.**

And taking care of them. I'm the only one and my parents. They even have some.

**And do you have here a permanent contract or? OK. And there are also people who work for temporary or is everybody here?**

There's no temporary here, we are all permanent here.

**OK. And do you? Do you see any? Do you have any difficulties with communication, speaking or language with the boss? If you have some concerns, if you have some opinion or difficulties, can you approach your approach? The boss and say OK, this is not this is difficult. I am not feeling well.**

The problem of electric problems my colleagues straight I go to him and tell him. It's this and that and that and he understand me. And searched for him and. Shy, I'm a smart lady.

**That's good. Yeah, that's that's that's good.**

I'm not afraid of communicate.

OK.

**And for the food you said you get food allowance, food allowance, is that for during the working?**

Yeah, you got food allowance.

**Hours or is it? Like so how? What do you do? For lunch, is it something offered here or?**

First, we are. Eating with hot food here to eat here. To get every Friday, we got food. But later they stop and put us the money in our.

**OK. OK.**

Now we have buy and take it we have.

Doing shopping and put them.

At our house. Sometimes, yeah.

**Do you get? Any increments every year, like the salary, the income. They raise every year. Or is it the same?**

No. Every year we've got same.

**OK.**

Then April, I think so.

**OK. And what level of education do you have? Sorry. OK.**

Grade 10.

And I go for non call. Actually, my parents were at the farm and. I was staying with my niece and. I feel my great. Child and I go for Namco but she was close in the house I want to cry.

You see me?

**This is because of your niece, you're sad now.**

I was staying with my. Cousins. Every time she closes her room and go to a guy or staying home then. Later I decide to leave. The school and go back to shop.

**So you couldn't finish and that's do you feel sad about that still?**

That's right.

**Yeah, I can imagine. That's not fair. So you think if you finished you would have more opportunities? Do you think your daughter can finish? Yeah. No, that's good, right. You're doing that for her. That's really nice.**

Some days I was sleeping outside.

Sitting outside from there I go to school. And teachers give me something to eat. Why I dropped the school and they could come.

**Yeah, I understand. Yeah. And your brothers and sisters, did they finish?**

My brother finished. My sister finished. They were taken by other people with my father by by parents, so they farm.

Not having a house.

**OK. You feel they have better, better life now, yeah.**

They think they cannot see problems with my problem. Me and my daughter.

Well, it's hereditary. It's in the family, yeah.

**OK.**

Keith, 80, something you've 84.

And the doctor said you cannot make it come on. He is dry and the world is now in the and he can't see again that he's selling the glasses.

OK.

**And you are the eldest. You are the oldest kid.**

Or no, I have two brothers and me and my daughter is staying and my sister is staying with me.

**What kind of jobs do your brother and sister have?**

Have my brothers and my sisters. Teachers?

OK.

They could marry. In their own houses.

**And do they also support your parents?**

And they have been helping you. The extra comments coming and then no problem. But not so much. Not every time. Maybe once in a month. If they drink, that's more. Not every time.

**Do you have a good connection with your brother or sister or and.**

You're having your feeling patient, OK?

**You said your family have farms or they don't have.**

Only my uncle is having the father not the farm. A place to keep their kettles. In the substance.

And with this income and those things, do you think? Do you want to stay in this work. Or do you want to go back to farming or.

I don't want to go back to farming.

It's too difficult.

I think either completely.

OK.

**And you for here you from here to to get a promotion. So you think you have good chances here for promotion and going. To the next. OK. That's good. Right. That's good. We have opportunities here to grow. And stay on your life. Your job here so far.**

**I just hurt your eyes. Do you need glasses?**

Yeah, I need glasses.

**There's no insurance or policy or governments. Doesn't you have to pay yourself a little bit so.**

They they say I can also go and lay Papa. I'm not ready. They say I can give them paypal.

**OK. OK. So you have to pay, but then OK.**

With the glasses.

**And you get medical insurance right from the discovery.**

So yeah, but not for the glasses. There, it's only for the medicines. In our source covering glasses.

**If I may ask, you are a single mother. Did you have your kids? Where did you? How old are they?**

The Avalon. But I break up with my father. He's drinking too much and make me stress. Because I'm having a family to take care, you know, he's drinking and everything. I'm not returning.

**So he's not providing for his child or.**

Come again? He's.

He’sproviding for his child.

Oh yeah, sometimes, but I don't understand some if if I ask him give that he's heading West, then I'm not that type, then I say. If you give then you give if you.

Know I'm standing.

In the community.

**If you can say that one thing you can change about how things are. Here in terms of working conditions, what we change here?**

Yeah, people. If you work in a country like. But sometimes the people we are defending people.

And they make they we make people.

Think sometimes we want to work on the other ones we want and doing this and most common. Children are sometimes giving any criminals. Would you like?

But you should.

Tell the people.

Right.

But this is an entire I'm doing. I'm not feeling bad. Faces every time it complaints.

And to the to the boss to give proper training to do the job they do, they give training state way how you harvest, how you process, how you operate with those.

Yeah, they give us. Given me when it came where I was having a class here for that killing, there was a time from Senegal. And I was here, you know, got training, people stuff. And after you read it back.

I like this, but come here.

Yeah, they have passed and I seen the television, but.

**So that's yeah. And and do you have lunches together? If you bring our common lunch time. So you come together and they have.**

Yeah, yeah. We share, even if we don't get healthier, we. Are even figured out.

**OK, so you shared food. Who says good?**

Even at the house.

OK.

Me and my mom used to teach me how to cook. I know.

**Can you make very good? What is your favorite dish?**

The cakes that the cake. Lasagna, like I'm doing everything. Because I'm taking it from there.

**To them, right? Oh, that's good. So you have access. So so far there are some things can be improved, but overall you say you want to stay here and get promoted and maybe one day manager stopping you.**

And then. Because I don't. Working time people in town. Maybe in. Short rides but. People accusing this, she's still and she's eating. And then. I was fired. But here there's no. Food I'm working with firewood and like that, I'm. Happy with it.

OK. I don't want to work in shops and even with money. The devil is not.

**You think I'll take this $20?**

You feel more secure here. And do you think all other? Like your neighbors, they want. To they also feel the same thing.

I was fired.

**What happened?**

Yeah, something was at the wake, and they fired as they suspended me. Then I say then I'm happy with my job. There's nothing that I can take it. Look for me, your bed, and I say it's hard. I will work out. I will check them if I let them and here. Then I will let you know that here, as you see this.

**And when you come to work here so. Who takes care of the two year old?**

My mother and my sister. Just say.

**And do they come here and see what kind of work you're doing or?**

Never. They were not here.

Then you see the pictures. If I take the pictures, they see the. Pictures how we work and how is the blazer. How is she? And they're interested for one. Day I will bring them. If I get permission from my boss. And I'll bring my share with them.

**What's this here?**

Maybe the only lady, yeah.

**And how many holidays do you get when?**

You we are getting in December the holidays.

**How many days?**

16 days, 16 days.

16 days.

**And you do, you get, like, sick leaves or?**

Yeah, we are in. That sick leave annual leave we adding those leaves. OK. Maternity leaves. All those things, really.

**OK.**

Maternity leave is 3 months. If you can maybe three months.

**So you were working here when you had the OK, nice.**

And I was resting nice, yeah. National policy.

**Does everybody have that?**

And the other farm workers here they are of your age or they are younger, they are older.

They're all done. They stopped. 2000 whatever they are all.

**Yeah, interesting on those level. Thanks for. Do you have any questions for us? You can ask.**

Can't fix it? When did you came in Namibia?

I came two weeks before.

I came last weekend this last week, yeah.

**Call us OK. From straight. From when you came to. Well, almost straight.**

Yes, we will be staying here for one week and then today we are.

Of course really does. Take pictures.

With me.

Oh yeah. Thank you.

That sounds.