**F26 - 25-11-21 – Interview transcript farmer #26 (in depth)– male – Cambil – 35-year-old**

**Firstly, introduce yourself.**

I am [name], dedicated to agriculture, to the fields since 2015. Previously, I worked in the construction industry.

**What do you do in the fields?**

In the fields, I am only dedicated to olive trees. All the tasks that can be done to it, treatments, cuts, harvest… I do everything.

**Do you have any property or land?**

My own land, no. I am what is called a sharecropper, which is a percentage. I have olive trees from an owner that can’t take care of them, so I do.

**Do you work in a single property or different places?**

Here there aren’t big properties. Here, in fact, there are small properties. The biggest one I have, in the same place, as a sharecropper, has 300 olive trees. 200, 120… That is what I have. In total, I work on around 2,500 olive trees, from three different sharecroppers… My own property, none of them.

**Then, have you been working in this sector since 2015?**

Yes, since 2015.

**What changed?**

So, in construction, they left me, let’s say, without salary and instead of working for other people, I recycled myself and I started working in the fields.

**How old are you?**

I’m 41 years old.

**Can you describe a day for us?**

A day? Right now, we are in the harvest. We start working at 9.30 in the morning, until 12.45 when we have lunch. We go back from 2.30 until 4.30. Six hours and a half of work. We work with machines, manually with machines. We don’t take buggies or anything like that because in the Sierra… The land we have doesn’t enable us to do so. We work manually with machines, with vibrators and rods. ¿Do they fall to the floor? Then we start harvesting with a blower. A blower and to load making a small “mountain”. That's the harvest.

When we are not in harvest, when we end it, we start cutting them, cleaning them, and preparing them for another year. Because olive trees require not to have too many old branches, they want new ones because in the type of agriculture we do, what we are interested in is that the olive tree increases the production. That’s why we treat them chemically. And composts are also chemicals. We do not have anything related to ecology. This is agriculture, but not an ecological one.

**Are all the properties you work in this area? In Cambil?**

Yes. We have a designation of origin, and we have all the properties that are always surrounding the cooperative, which is the area of designation of origin and where I live, in order to avoid long commuting distances. The furthest property is 35 km away. Then, we go into the area of ? , but it belongs to the Sierra Mágina designation of origin.

**Do you have machines?**

Yes, we do have machinery. I have two chainsaws, which are necessary for pruning. I have vibrators and blowers, which we use for harvest. Besides, rods and blankets. And the biggest thing we have, because I usually bring people, it’s a tractor, but we use the tractor to load olives and to crush the remains from olive trees’ pruning.

**Do you also do that?**

Yes, we do that as well. I also have the machinery to crush the rests. And then, I also have a mobile tank in order to treat the olive trees during the treatment season. Roughly, these are the tools I have and the ones everyone has in this area.

**Do you have a company and work with other people?**

No, I work on my own. But for harvest, as we have to collect a lot from a short period, I hire people. However, during the rest of the year, outside the harvest period, I do everything on my own; I cut them, I fertilize them, I treat them, and I harvest them with more people. Now I’m bringing 3 people. Now because it requires more effort, they (olives) are harder. And later, I might end up with 8 people working to harvest from the 2,500 olive trees I have.

**What do you do to rest?**

Right now, getting home, having a shower, and that’s all. But because of the amount of olive trees I have, it is something daily. Because when you end with the cut, you start with the treatments. Once you treat the olive trees, irrigation starts. I have two irrigation systems, drip irrigation, which is a community, and then, traditional irrigation, using ponds. And so, as you have shifts every week, and almost every day of the week you have a different shift in every parcel. As they are quite far away from each other, and they are that small, then you are taking shifts, and the only turn in which there is no drip irrigation is on Sundays, but we do traditional irrigation on Sundays.

**Then, do you have work during the entire year?**

The whole year. And you must notice that olive trees have to be cut every two years, and I do it every three because it does not give more olives if I cut them. If I tried to hire people, they could do it, but it is not economically feasible to me because 100% of olives is not mine. Now, I have 60% of the fruit, and the 40% I give it to its owner. Then, I have to compensate for that. Instead of doing two tasks in succession, I decrease the work.

**Then, 60-40. Is that normal in this area?**

Yes, it is usual in this area. We have contracts from 60, or 70, up to 80. PAC was also included, which is what is given as help, as a grant, as it is called here. But the owners have that, they keep those grants. Therefore, as I am struggling with money, I have to do the work on my own. Otherwise, it is not economically feasible. There were some years, like 3 years ago, that I had to invest my savings in. I didn’t get any profits. This year, the olive oil has been better sold, so I have a higher income. Usually, if I liquidateor a kilo of olives is around 30-40 cents, then it costs me money. I have to get around 55-60 cents to get enough money to pay my expenses, to pay for machinery, to eat and take care of my family. Around 60-70 cents, I get something. Below 40, I have to pay.

**So, is the PAC grant not shared?**

No, they have 100%, the owners. 100%, they have it. Usually, it is the owner who takes that money. In the past, in contracts from 15 years ago or more, they gave you 60-70%. But not anymore. Now, they keep it. That’s why I tell you, that is what happens here. But we depend on the olive tree.

Construction industry? I was working in construction, but it didn’t go well. I worked, but we worked shifts, per hour, and left me, so I couldn’t get paid. And we are talking about 16,000€, that amount. And I recycled myself. I dedicated myself to agriculture. I have an idea of how much I can risk, and I’m playing with that. Can I treat olive trees? I do it. Can’t I? I only do the necessary ones. Usually, we do two phytosanitary treatments to olive trees, during spring and autumn. Right now, I am doing only one, in spring. About the soil, two treatments are also needed, for weeds, in spring and autumn. I am doing them to avoid clearing them and putting them into the tractor to be crushed.

**What do you enjoy in your day?**

From the fields? Firstly, it doesn’t give commands. Secondly, you start working whenever you want, and you can end working whenever you want. Usually, when strength-demanding tasks arrive, then I take advantage of that, when you have to clear the weeds, blow the olives on the floor; you take advantage of that. After that, it depends on the olive and bringing people you might spend one hour and a half… But I usually go to the fields at 8 in the morning and I go back home at 2. At 4 I go until 8 or 9 at night.

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

Change? I don’t know. As you already do this job, you get used to it, it is going well, and it isn’t… Well, it is a tough job. But well, in every job, you have a routine, you get used to it and well, you live. With everything I have, I can sustain my family. I’m a bit far away from being a millionaire, but well, it is not that but, it is what It is. Previously, I was in construction, I was working 10-12 and I had my salary, but you struggle a lot. You can’t spend time with your wife… Then, there is a period during the year in which they don’t pay you what they should and then they pay less. I took this and I liked it. And well, I’m not bad, nobody gives orders to me, to say it in some way. I work what I want. Do I want to work more? I do. Do I want to work less? I can compensate and do all tasks, because in the contract I have to do what I agreed with the owner, I have to treat the olive trees, I have to irrigate them, I have to take care of them, to make them look good, without weeds, properly cut, in good conditions.

**You said you live here in Cambil…**

Yes, I live here in Cambil

**Who do you live with?**

I live with my wife and my daughter. Is the family I have.

**Have you always lived in Cambil?**

I am from Arbuniel, a town which is 10 km away. So, I’ve always been in this area.

**How is life in this town?**

Is a typical town life, we all know each other, and we interact. There are few people. Here, it might be around 2,500-3,000 inhabitants. In my own town, it was even smaller, we were approximately 900-1,000 inhabitants. So, we know everyone. And if you are not family, you are a cousin, that’s what happens in this area. Life is quiet, we know everybody, it is not like in the cities, where there are more problems. Here you have your own pace. Here you can leave the front door of your house open, all the tools inside the car, and nobody touches them, so we live well. It’s quiet.

**Do you feel safe here?**

Yes, here there are not too many problems. It’s peaceful. Indeed, in this area, with small towns, it’s peaceful.

**How important is nature to you? The environment?**

We live from nature. That is what we have here. Here we don’t have industries, nor industrial parks. In other words, 90% of the people from the town live on olive trees. There is some farming, but very few. There is some construction, but few. Not here, but neither in the nearest town. This is what we have, olive trees, and from that, we live, and we take care of them. Firstly, we have to take care of them because we make a living on them, so the more we care, the more olives we get. Because an olive tree is a type of tree that cannot be deceived, rather you fertilize it, irrigate it, and treat it, otherwise, it doesn’t produce fruit. Olive trees suffer from many diseases, and also are attacked by many insects. You cannot have an old, careless olive tree because in that case, it doesn’t produce olives. In fact, you have to have it neat, pampered. And if it requires something, and you don’t do it, the next year… no. Because we treat an olive tree based on fruit and yield. The more kilos, the better.

Right now, we are trying to prioritize quality. We start collecting the higher ones, but we don’t stop. There are some issues. We also have competitors. Our competitors to the traditional olive tree are super intensive. They, with less labor, and fewer treatments, might collect around 1000 or 2000% more than us. I, with 5 people, am collecting around 2,000-2,200 kilos. They, with a machine and two people, one carrying the machine and the other loading it, can harvest maybe 20,000 kilos in 6 hours. Against that, we can’t compete. Their variety is usually A*rbequina*, which is the one that produces the most, but it has less yield. We, the one we have is *Picual* because it is the one with a higher yield. Right now, I’m starting in November until the end or the beginning of March, and I have a yield average of 23%-24%. They might have 18-20%, but they have a bigger volume, quite bigger.

**Did something related to nature change here?**

Now we are mechanized, that has changed. If you are not mechanized, you cannot work with the amount of olive trees that I do. My father had maybe 700-800 using a car and a trailer. I need machines for those 2,500. To clear weeds, to collect olives, to mash them. If you are not mechanized, then you can’t do much. Maybe, I’m one of the least mechanized; there are some that with a tractor do everything. That’s not me. I do a lot manually. The *ruedos,* all blown, but with machines. If you don’t use machines, you can’t take the volume I have, you can’t eat.

**At home, for instance, which kind of energy sources do you use?**

Energy sources? Electricity. Solar panels and those kinds of things, I don’t have. At home, it’s electricity. The only thing I have as heating from the rests of olive trees is a stove. We use firewood to burn it. But not all. I usually use around 8,000 kilos of firewood. This year I could cut 14,000 kg from the 2,500 olive trees, so the remaining part I give it. It is economically more profitable than bringing a person and then selling it myself. It is more feasible. And about branches, much thinner, I crush and leave them in the fields. Here we don’t have those kinds of places as in France. I worked in France, and there were spots where all the rests from pruning were brought, and then they were treated there. Here we don’t have that. In addition, regarding trunk and wood, I only get approximately 14,000 kilos, 8,000 I keep from myself, and the rest I give away. Around another 8,000 considering branches and smaller stems. All that to destroy it and, where do you leave it? We don’t have any place, neither we can move it… and it is a huge volume, we crush it, and we leave it in the field, covering the soil.

**Then, did you start in 2015?**

Yes, from 2015 I am working on this.

**How did you learn to do the tasks involved?**

In 2015 I started to work on my olive trees, but before that, I worked for other people, because I worked in construction and also, sometimes, in the field if there was any job available. In addition, it is not difficult, taking care of an olive tree is not difficult, no, it isn’t complicated, it is simple. You have to treat it, irrigate it, prune it, treat the soil, clean it with water to have it clean if it falls into the floor, then pick it up and it’s simple.

**Then, have you always worked in this?**

Yes, I’ve been always working on this.

**But not at 100%?**

Not for me, I worked for other people. Since 2015 I have been working on my own.

**What is the difference?**

The difference is that if you work for people, you have to work under a schedule. And now, I work on my own, I carry the olives to the mill, and they pay me, maybe, not every month, but every three. Every three months they transfer to you your money, and that’s the income that I have, what I bring home. There are some places where it is only once, once per year, and then you distribute that throughout the year.

**How did you learn to do this?**

You learn because you start working with other people and they tell you. The most complicated task might be the cuts, because there are different types, in order to clean it, to renew the tree when it is getting old, but then it is not that difficult. The most complicated are those olive trees that are old, because they do not give signals, so they are cut less often. The younger ones, yes, they tell you when they need a cut. Besides, the cut has evolved. Now we do a type of cut… I don’t like it, it is about removing some parts, cleaning it in the middle a lot, and leaving it in a proper way to make it easier for the machine to take it. To make it faster. But that has a disadvantage, and it’s that the sun burns the wood, it is not protected anymore, then you have to cut more and renew it in that way, and in the end, it gets old faster. It is needed to do a cut without producing a lot of wood, without removing a lot. Cleaning inside and leaving them protected. Because here we might have, like last summer, around 45 degrees, between 40-45 degrees, which is very hot. You should have them protected. Olive trees can withstand a temperature of 3-4 degrees. In 2005 we had temperatures of minus 6- and 7-degrees during January and February. They froze. Then, as they froze, we had to cut them. So, to recover those trees, it may last around 10 years. Then, under those 40 degrees, the tree starts to feel thirsty, and the fruit wrinkles, even though you irrigate it, but it is affected.

**What type of agriculture is?**

The one I am doing? It’s traditional agriculture, commonly known. It is the one that my father and my grandpa did, that is the one we are doing here, but mechanized, with help. They cut with axes, we do it with chainsaw; they harvested with rods, we do it with vibratos, with machinery that works with gasoline. They used livestock or a sickle for weeds, and we used a clearing machine. They did the cleaning down there, which is known as *ruedo*, with rakes, we do it with blowers. We do the same as my father did but using machines. Faster.

**What kind of studies or education do you have?**

I have what here it is called secondary studies. Before being called like that, it was called *EGB*. I studied EGB, or secondary education, and I have a degree in electrical equipment and installations technician, which is called a medium degree. That's what I have.

**Are you still studying courses?**

Courses, yes, I’m still doing them. The first one I did was about phytosanitary products because within the EU it is mandatory; for chainsaws… For phytosanitary products and all that, some courses. You do some courses during few hours, and then you receive a diploma. Those are roughly the important ones in the field. They usually are few, but every year there is always something that is required to have it.

Phytosanitary products… those are chemicals, and you have to manipulate them, so you need a basic or specialized course to treat treas. And the most complicated is regarding the soil, with glyphosate.

**What do you do when you are not working?**

Olive trees lasts the whole year. I don’t have holidays. I don’t have them because you must stay. Due to the quantity of olive trees I have, which are not a huge number, I have to be in the field everyday because I have to check for droppers, breakages, doing cuts to the trees… And as that should be done in specific timing, then it must be done. In other words, I start Monday working until Sunday, until the cuts are finished. Now we are in the harvest season, and its from Monday to Sunday, or until it rains. You rest when it rains… Or any day you say “today I’m not going”. But normally, I am usually in the field, with irrigations, treating the weeds. Instead of using the tractor, when there is lesser weed quantity, I do it with a treatment bag, with less quantity. Then, you start cutting. Because an olive tree, below the olive, it does not have a lot of weeds. They bother the olives because, besides taking their nutrients, when the warm temperatures arrive, dry weeds expand the heat, and you have to clean it. All those tasks, I do them. About harvest, I start in November until February, from February to may, the cuts, then I end the cuts. From April to May, upper treatments. In May I usually treat the soil. In June, July, and August, I start clearing weeds. In August, and September, I start blowing. And in October, I finish blowing. Then, we also start cleaning the olive trees from August to October, and in November, we start harvesting. Every month you have a specific task. And you must do it.

**But what do you do to rest?**

One day-off? I come, I have animals. I like animals. I have dogs, three. I am with them, I go our with them because they live inside the house, so I go out with them, I am outdoors for a while and then I come back. Afterwards, also, with my child, I am usually with her; as she is now 11 years old and has some school homework, I stay with her, or her mother does it. Another hobby I have is painting. I like oil painting. I also invest some time in it. And then, the rest of the family. I have my father, already retired, and I bring my child to make her have contact with her grandparents. My daughter likes the field a lot, and I bring her with me while I am doing tasks in the field, especially when it is irrigation season, I bring her with me. And then at home, you look at you phone, looking at things you like, some tv, and reading. Nothing else.

**Do you think you have enough free time?**

Yes. If I don’t have it, then I take a break. As I work on my own, I decide. Maybe I go on a trip with the girls, any Sunday, any weekend, we go somewhere. And I take that break. It can be during the week or on a weekend, as I am my own boss, I can do it. But normally I am dedicated to the olive trees, my family. Fully occupied.

**Do you go to other places? Other cities in Spain…?**

Cities? No, I don’t like traveling much. But I’ve been to France. I worked on grape harvest in France. I also worked in defoliation, in France. Those are the jobs I did abroad. I know France, Madrid, Jaén, some parts of Andalucía, but not all parts, no. I visited Granada, Almería, Jaén, and some places in Seville. About the area of Cádiz, I’ve never been there. Neither in Córdoba. And from there to the north, in the Basque Country, two days, and other two in Madrid. That is all I traveled.

**Do you think you have enough opportunities to go anywhere else, where you want?**

Yes, I have opportunities. But I don’t have time because olive trees require care every month, and you should do them within that timing. Maybe I could travel more, yes. I could have traveled more. Also, traveling, as I understood, is economically quite difficult for me because my wife doesn’t work, now she has permission to not work due to a disease condition, so she doesn’t work. In the past, she helped me, especially during harvest. In other tasks, she also helps, but she’s not physically like us. She does it, but as she’s suffering from a bone-related disease, she can’t. right now, she’s not helping me with harvest, now she’s resting. Right now, economically, it’s me because I’m sustaining my family.

**Is your income enough to live on?**

Living a good life… It is enough to eat. It is enough to pay my house mortgage and a car I bought. But little else. Three years ago, as I told you, as olives were sold at a very low price, I had to invest my savings in paying the workers, phytosanitary products, and everything else related to olive trees. It involves high expenses, economically, gasoline, time, fertilizers, phytosanitary products… And I do not use more than the amounts required, indeed I’m using less quantity than I should. I am treating only in spring, but I should do it also in autumn. But I left that one. That happens because the percentage is very low, and then I have to pay for everything. The owner is only paying the water used, what goes from the irrigation community, and from the irrigation using blankets, which is common here, they are paying fees, that’s what they pay. Then, I have to pay workers, their salary, their registration and deregistration, and their health insurance. Besides, I have to pay my health insurance; my wife pays her health insurance. Those are expenses, quite high expenses. Economically, as I am doing my job, future… Considering the olive oil’s price, if they pay me 40 cents per kilo of olives, I have to leave them. I need them to be around 60-65 cents to have enough income to eat. But to save money, buy another house, or buy olive trees, no, that’s not enough. It’s enough to eat.

**Can you save money?**

No, right now with that income I cannot save any money. It’s not enough. Now, that covers food and debts. But little else. That’s why I could travel, but actually I can’t because I can’t afford it. Living here, my salary is not that bad because I do not depend on unemployment grants or any other allowance. I do not receive any grant, but I don’t depend on them right now. I don’t get enough money from my olive trees to save, but I keep them. Neither did I buy olive trees.

I have a daughter, and I don’t want her to have the job I have. It is not a bad job, or worse than others, but she’s a woman, and I don’t have my own olive trees. I want her to study, to have a degree that enables her to live with less worries than me. Because it is not usual to see a woman working in the field. Right now, everyone, around 90%, looks for men for those jobs. It is not about a woman not being able to do it, but they are looking for men. Women dedicate to soils and blowers. And I don’t want that for my daughter.

**Why?**

No, because as we are working with olive trees, we are looking to have lots of trees in order to have a huge and cheap production. And that, here in the *sierra*, it is complicated. As I am working, it has no future. Traditional olive trees will be replaced by super intensive ones. And in the *sierra*, only remain the olive trees which are already good. Because if not, we won’t be able to survive anymore.

**If you could earn more money… How would you spend that money?**

If I had higher income I would invest in a degree for my daughter, in everything I could help my daughter because I’m 41 years old, I’m going to continue like this. If I couldn’t work in the field, I would go back to construction. I couldn’t work in construction, I have a brother that is working in France, I roughly know France, so I would go to France. I want to keep my life as it is now. I think it has no future, but well, I recycle myself, I don’t have any problem. But about olive trees, as we have them now, I think it won’t last because it is barely paid. At least that’s the problem we have with traditional ones.

Here, they started with ecological crops… and then they completely forgot about that. Because right now, I can have an average production, from 2015 until now… The least I collected were 12,000 kilos. That was the first year because I harvested the olives half abandoned because before the sharecroppers had it less cared. My average is between 25,000 and 40,000 kilos, that is what I’m harvesting. The highest amount I’ve ever collected was 68,000 kilos. Three years ago I got 50,000 kilos. They paid 33 cents, so around 17,000€. 17,000€ is what I pay for collecting olives. Only paying my workers costs around 8,000€, their health insurance around 2,500€, phytosanitary products only treating the trees once and the soil twice, they are approximately 3,000€; gasoline for harvesting, clearing and water pumps, around 1,500€; car commutes, around 1,000€. If you sum all that money, then it is not profitable, it is not economically feasible. Now olives are a little bit more expensive, so it gives me some money, but just enough to eat and save for emergencies. Unpredictable emergencies might be a machine’s failure, a car breakage, or buying new machinery, basically.

**Are you involved in social activities, political activities in the community?**

The association we have here is the cooperative. In the cooperative, we are small farmers. We can’t have a cooperative to produce our olive oil, that’s very expensive. We have to be together, bring the olives to have them milled, and be together. The more people, the more kilos, the cheaper milling is. Because we, in the cooperative, pay the expenses from the milling and also related expenses to the process. Not long ago, we needed money, and now we are paying a loan to the bank. We pay the milling and the workers. That is in what we invest, in the mill. And that’s our workers’ association.

**Do you attend meetings?**

Yes, they organize meetings. They explain to us the expenses we have, our income. Now, we have an association, which helps us to sell olive oil because that sale is done by a third party to the cooperative. So, they are explaining to us how it works, that we are associated with other cooperatives and that’s what we have. Yes, I can participate. We provide olives, the mill/olive press makes them oil, and that oil is sold by the mill or by a third party, and that third party works with several mills and sells different batches. They are explaining that to us. All that is explained by the cooperative. It also informs us by phone messages about the starting dates for harvest, for phytosanitary products, which we also take from the mill, as it is cheaper, and also about office information and meetings. By phone, they inform us.

**What are your dreams? What do you aim for?**

My dream is to provide my daughter with a better life and more studies than mine because nowadays without studies you can do nothing, and I wish she had a less physical job because agriculture is very physical. I wish for her to have a quieter job, that doesn’t economically depend on the olive availability, on the fact of whether it rains or not. To have a more comfortable life than mine. That’s my dream.

**How is your physical condition?**

I’m not bad for being 41 years old. I already have back issues, bone problems due to my job. Working in the fields, which is physical, it overuses people. It overuses because it is based on weights. It is about vibrators that you carry. Right now, I carry a vibrator that might weigh between 15 and 20 kg. A blower is around 10 – 12 kg as well, and I usually take a 15kg blower for 8 hours, and that overuses. Now I have around six hours and a half, and everything is physical. We have the tractor for helping us, but it overuses our bodies.

**How come?**

It overuses the bones. It involves many physical efforts, lot of weight. That's what we suffer from, the bones. That’s what I’ve noticed.

**Do you feel satisfied, happy?**

Yes. If not, I would look for anything different. Because, as I told you before, this is a job you do daily, and get used to it. And in the end, you like it.

**Do you have worries?**

Yes, I have worries because I depend on the fruit that trees give, on the weather, on the treatments you give them, on water, on irrigation, I depend on a lot of things. Then, regarding the weather, if there is hail, it destroys all crops, you lose it. If everything gets frozen and you have to cut the trees, you lose them for 10 years. You rely on the weather a lot, and that’s a worry. Every time, it rains less; every time you want olive trees to produce more, you want to invest in treatments, but an olive tree produces what it can. Considering the conditions of our land and the traditional agriculture, then it is what it is. *Picual* is not one of the olive tree varieties that produces the most, it is the one with the highest yield, and as I told you, I have on average 25-40kg per olive tree. I might have 30% centenary olive trees, and around 70% of olive trees relatively new, between 70 – 80 years old. They are young. None of them is millennial, I don’t have any of those. The oldest ones might be around 200 years old; I don’t have any olive trees older than that, and 70% of my trees are 80 years old or younger, between 70 and 80 years old. I don’t have cutting or anything like that. And that’s the production they achieve, around 25 – 40 kg per olive tree.

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

Yes, people who have been always working here, we talk. We talk about the treatments, about the best products and machinery. About that, we talk.

**Now we would like to know which kind of topics are relevant to you to have a good life. For this reason, we have some cards, and we would like to ask whether they are important or not. There are different topics, which are all important to some degree, it is relative. Let’s start with spirituality, does it play a role in your life?**

If am I religious? No, let’s say that I’m atheist, I don’t believe. Spirituality few, no. We left this here.

**Satisfactory jobs.**

A satisfactory job, yes. If you don’t feel well with your job… that’s among the most important things. If you don’t feel well with your job, you don’t do it as you should; you don’t do it on time, it takes longer. If you feel well, then you do it. I’m happy about my job. I go to the fields and I feel good; I sit there for a while, I bring my dogs, I have them there… It feels good. If you don’t feel well with your job, you’re not going to do it properly and you are not going to last, for sure.

**Social support, social relationships.**

To do your job, you need your wife’s support; she has to observe that, economically, we are doing well. There are some days that maybe something happens with a machine, and I say, “we have to invest in this”, so you must have your family’s support. Or say, “let’s see if we can do this or that, come with me and help me”, and if you don’t have your family’s support… For me it’s essential. I have a brother; I call him, and he comes. For the fields, I called him, and he came. If you don’t have your family’s support, then it could be bad for you.

**Are you satisfied in that sense? Is there something you would like to change?**

Yes, I work a lot for my brother-in-law. We are brothers-in-law and we do lots of tasks together. I’m satisfied. In that kind of thing, you cannot think “it I work for an hour, then you have to work for me for another one”, you must have good relationships. If you don’t have them, you feel lonely, and when you are alone and something bad happens to you, you can do nothing. Or if any machine breaks down, “lend me yours”, and I lend it. You must have them, otherwise it would be very bad.

**Mobility. Be free to go, move…**

I am free to go wherever I want, but I have my job, which involves my olive trees, so I can’t stop working for a month.

**Is that important to you?**

Mobility? To me, it is important. I would like to have more, but I shouldn’t complain. Let’s leave it in the middle.

**Education and critical thinking.**

Every one of us has to have their own personality, we have to say… Regarding criticism, yes, rural jobs are commonly criticized, “in this way you do it better, in the other way you do it worse…”, but in the end you must do it as it is better for you as long as it is properly done. Yes, education and critical thinking are necessary, they are important. We must have our own personality. Let’s put it in the middle.

**Leisure and spare time**

Yes, it is necessary. Especially when you have a child, as I do, who is 11 years old. You must have leisure time, spend time with her, and also with your wife. And not only with your wife, but also with your brothers, the rest of the family. I’m lucky because they are close to me. If they lived further, maybe I wouldn’t see them as often; if they were even closer, then I would see them more times. But if I don’t meet them, they never tell me, “You didn’t come”. It can take a month…

**Mental health**

We must have mental health because if something bad happens, we have to take it. A machine might fail, hail can occur, maybe there is a bad harvest, and if you feel sad… It is necessary to look for a solution, and if you are not mentally okay, and you face your problems properly…. This is really important. If we don’t pay attention to our mind… “The mill is going to close, and we haven’t harvested yet” … There is pressure on you, so if you are not mentally well to take it properly. That is important. You must look for solutions, calmly, without overthinking because otherwise we start with pills, and then it doesn’t look well. You cannot overthink. Work is work, problems are problems, family is family, and you must act like that, in that way. At least for me. If you overthink, then you don’t sleep. Chill is necessary and whatever happens, it happens.

**And are you…?**

Yes, mentally we must be okay.

**Taking care of the environment.**

Taking care of the environment? Yes, because it is very important. Because if we don’t do it, and we can’t eat from it, then it is difficult. They are trying to communicate that idea, they do some inspections in the fields, to ensure we leave the weeds, that we don’t erode too much, that we cut and treat olive trees. In olive trees, all this is being checked. Don’t push them, don’t pollute. It is traditional, not ecological, but we don’t harm the environment. Well, chemical products aren’t good, there might be other options, but we are trying to achieve super intensive olive trees’ crops. In the past, the Romans cultivated 35 olive trees per hectare. In the traditional one, we have around 70 – 80. Normally, 120, and even sometimes we may have up to 200. All that must be fertilized, treated, and if it is not chemically, we can’t. Ecologically? Which kind of ecological fertilizers do we use? Because we as farmers must be quick and produce in big quantities, that’s why we use chemicals. Maybe we should go back to the past, not to our parents’ times but to how the Romans collected fruits, or how Arabs irrigated. Maybe, instead of going forwards and trying to mechanize everything we must go backwards. I guess. That's my opinion. We must go backwards. Because we are polluting a lot, and we know it, we don’t exploit our residuals. The problem of olive trees is that, from wood, only cellulose can be used. Olive trees don’t have starch, or resins. Because resin can be employed for paintings, glues; starches are in fruits, so they are produced in big quantities. But it is not present in the olive tree, it only has cellulose. Also, olive trees have a very hard wood, which cannot be employed for carpentry purposes, nor for construction. In addition, here we are not used to building using wood. In other places, they do it and we might use what we crush in the fields to produce wood, panels, boards, pressed wood… we might use it, but we don’t have that culture and mindset. Here we’ve always used stone and mud for construction. And pines. That’s all. Wood for construction from an olive tree? No. Might it be useful? It is complicated. As I understand, although there are people that know more about the topic, we do not exploit that wood. Also, as I told you, I like painting. In the past, paintings were made of vegetables, crushing them. We don’t do that. Could the olive tree be harnessed? I do not know, maybe. Nowadays there is also talk of ecological wood-based culture, too. Maybe. But since we don't have that culture of building with wood here ... in France, a lot is built with wood, wooden villas, and everything. Here, cement, concrete, and iron. Very few woods.

 Ecology is important because if we harm olive trees, we lose everything.

**And self-determination? Make your own decisions.**

Yes, I make my own decisions. But of course, I can make my own decisions, but what matters to me is the olive tree. I am, as we say, I do not have that freedom. Maybe if they were 100% mine, I could make other decisions. Maybe another agriculture, another way... but the way we carry it and here, 90% of people carry olive trees as I do. If they were 100% mine, maybe I would have a different way of working, maybe… We are not completely dealing with ecologic ideas; it doesn’t work at all. Also, olive trees involve a lot of marketing. Now we are starting early harvests, with early olives, called early agriculture, but that can be done by anyone. You take an early olive oil, you package it inside a beautiful bottle and stick a nice label that indicates that it is an early olive oil, and in that way, you are not deceiving anyone. It is an early oil, but some essence is missing, another point of view. Because the harvest is the same for super intensive, intensive, and ecological olive trees is the same, you get an early olive oil, from an early variety, with a nice design, but anyone can do that. Then, more marketing. I think that in agriculture, everything is already invented. Now we are starting with early oils, but 2,000 or 2,200 years ago, Romans already did it, and maybe better than us. They collected olives manually to mash them; they didn’t break the olive pit because olives, the worse they are treated, they are like a sponge, all that is absorbed. And maybe they had more olive varieties than us. In other words, we are innovating but we are not creating anything new. That’s why I think we should go backwards, in order to harness what we leave from the olive tree, to make our own compost… They already did it, taking wet olive pomace, the leaves from the olive tree, manure from animals, they compacted all that, treated it and then used it as compost, and we don’t do that. 2,000 years ago… and we are already starting. So, let’s leave this in the middle.

**Safety**

If you have any conflict with your neighbor, like “don’t park here, I will put a rock”, then you have to… Then, there are some problems, we have a reluctant personality, very unique. Andalusians are very unique, we get mad with small things and if we can get revenge, we do it. But normally, there are no conflicts. I am the type of person who doesn’t like problems. If I can help you, I will do it. If you do something bad to me, I’m not going to remember to get revenge. We must be safe; we must live well together. It is not something really important because if you don’t talk to your neighbor, nothing happens, you are going to keep eating and living, as in my case, so it is not very… (important)

**Physical health**

Physical health, in this job it is very good. At some point, you have some issues; because I’m not as I was when I was 20 years old, but I’m still fine. My father, before retiring, he also worked in the fields, with olive trees. Not on top, neither down, in the middle. A person, despite not feeling physically well, can work in the field.

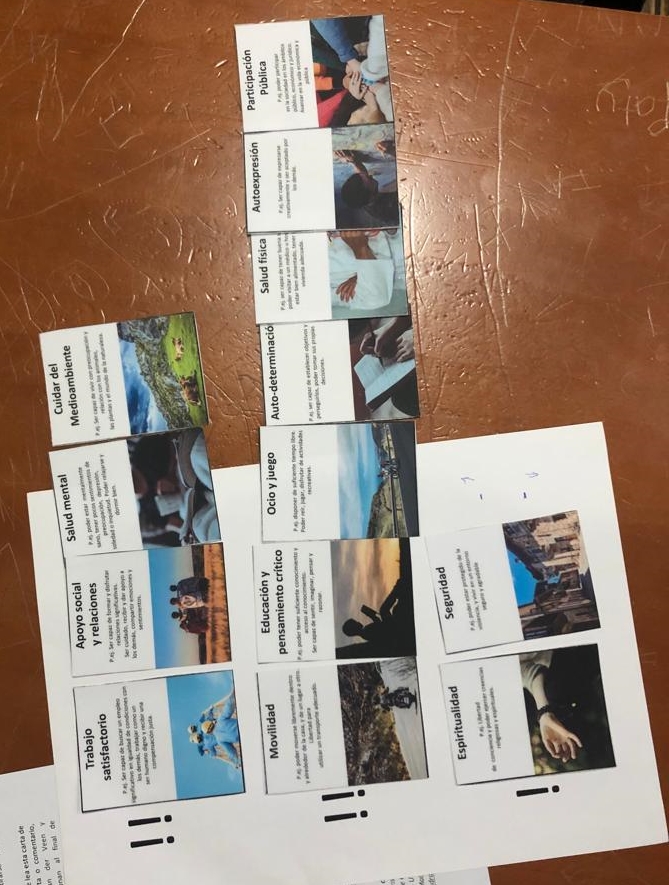
**Self-expression**

Yes, the same. Knowing how to express yourself is necessary. If you can give advice even when you have little knowledge, and you also let yourself receive advice… Because nobody knows everything. I don’t know everything, and if someone can give me advice and with advice, I can do something, then there’s no problem. If not, I will solve it by myself. Not on top, neither down, in the middle.

**In the end, there is public participation.**

Yes, especially we have to participate and be together in case any problem arises. It is not usually very important, neither down… In the middle.

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

Yes, I have the same opportunities, but it depends how we adapt to them. We can adapt better, and that depends on every person. I can’t do jobs I don’t know how to do; within my knowledge, I can do it better or worse, but within what I know, I can do it. I can recycle myself, if I can't work in agriculture, I change to construction; if not, I look for a different one. Within what I can reach with my knowledge, without problem. Not on top, neither down, in the middle, yes.

**Picture of the capability cards:**

**Now we have some questions regarding pruning rests. You told me that from pruning, you use firewood for heating, and you crush the rest**

Yes, I crush the rests, and leave them in the fields.

**Well, that’s the concept we are working with. The idea is that here, there are different communities that can provide biomass, such as pruning rests or olive pomace, and they can be processed in a biorefinery, where biofuels and biochar can be produced**

Yes, let’s say it is like a circle, in which you can use the rests from pruning, treating them… To make olive trees to become a circle.

**Yes, and we want to know if it is possible to develop that idea here.**

Yes, indeed it is already being done, in Canena they are doing it. Man adapted to dynamo agriculture or something like that. It is based on man… without chemical products, ecological products, and without depending on anyone. To treat an olive tree, with inserts, fertilizing them using pruning rests, including sheep, as they did, and producing their own manure. Making a circle from an olive tree, and olive tree depending on itself, without third parties or chemicals. In Canena they are already doing that, and they are producing olive oil. Previously, *Arbequina*, and now, *Picual*.

**Are they doing so now?**

Yes, they are.

**If you could sell the pruning rests, would it be interesting to you?**

Selling pruning rests? If it is economically profitable, and someone buys them, they could be sold. However, pruning rests have a huge volume. Do you decide to sell them? Yes, but then you need to transport them to specific places, so right now it is complicated. There are lots of pruning rests, but the volume is immense, and here there are no specific treatment points/places. The cooperative brings branches and green parts as biomass, but it is the cooperative, the rest of farmers…. Maybe the cooperative even pays to give them, maybe nobody buys it, instead they pay. I’m not really informed about that.

**But if it was possible, would you be interested?**

If they pay me and I have an additional income, it would be possible. But it would depend on the benefits because they must be high.

**Do you have the necessary machinery to crush, as a tractor?**

Yes, it is simple. Pruning rests? Transport. The only thing I would have to change is that instead of carrying huge volumes, I would crush them to transport them in a trailer. But I have to consider how much fuel it requires, the machinery used, because all machines have a lifespan. A crushing machine, working in a professional way might last two seasons. That machine costs around 12,000€, plus transport and fuel, and then trying to do it with the least number possible of people and considering the distance. It will be expensive.

**That’s all. Thank you very much, for the effort and time.**

I hope it will help.