**F6 - Interview female farmer Cambil – 02-11-2021**

**What is your age?**

62 years

**For how long are you working in the olive sector?**

First I worked for other people, when I was 14, when I finished my school, I worked in the harvest, normally that is what I did for work. Later, I also worked in pruning. For example, past year, we chipped them, but them you need to put them in lanes so the tractor can go and chip them.

**So you work in the olive sector since you were a child?**

Yes, before I also worked in other fields, but now I work on the fields of my brother in law and of myself, that I inherited from my family.

**To which cooperative to you belong?**

To [name].

**Do you have other income generating activities, apart from olives?**

No

**So you depend on olive production for your livelihood?**

Yes, I work in the olive fields and here in the household

**And was that always like that?**

Yes

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

Apart from what I said, that I work in the harvest and pruning, my husband does most of the work, he does the cleaning, curing. I work more in the harvest and I help during the pruning, to collect the pruning rests. But other things I don’t do.

**Ok, so you don’t work in the field during the whole year, just in the periods when there is more work**

Yes

**What is your education level?**

Primary

**Do you work with other family members in the field?**

Yes, with my son, the one that is here, because the other one lives in Valencia. But when he has time, he comes and helps us.

**How much hectares do you have?**

Hectares I don’t know, I know the number of trees. In one place I have 70, in another one, 30 something, well about 200 in total.

**What is your cultivation method?**

Traditional

**And how do you do the harvest, manually?**

Partly manually, but also with a vibrator and tractor.

**And the pruning?**

With chainsaw

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

Partly, in the areas where the machines cannot come, because it is very steep, we burn it. And a part we chip. But that is not possible everywhere.

**And where it’s not possible, you burn it in the field?**

Yes

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

We always do it like that. Well, the bigger pieces of wood, we use for the chimney, to heat the house. And the smaller branches, we burn because we cannot use it. Maybe some people who have sheep or goat, they use it for animal feed.

**How many employees do you use in these activities?**

Normally we are with 3 people, my brother, Alfonso and me.

**Which and how much fertilizers do you use?**

We have irrigation, and we put fertilizers in the irrigation, I don’t know how much.

**Ok, someone else does it?**

Yes, we are connected to an irrigation community, they put it with the water.

**What are the main challenges according to you, in the sector?**

For example, here it is difficult to mechanize, because of the terrain we have. That is much easier in flatter areas, they use more machines. Or the intensive cultivation for example, they can harvest much quicker. We need to do the things the way they did it in the past. For us, it takes more time to harvest, it is more difficult in the mountains.

**Apart of that, do you also see other challenges?**

I don’t know.

**Maybe in the area of sustainability, do you see problems with that?**

To a certain extent, all these olive trees are like a forest. There are a lot of animals, like birds, insects, snakes, that all live here. That is what you refer to?

**Yes, or maybe, do you experience problems with the soil, or water?**

What people do now, more than before, is to leave cover crops, so the soil doesn’t erode that much.

**Ok, and what kind of things could be improved or changed, according to you?**

Maybe, instead a monoculture that we have here, this is the only thing that we have here, to also have some alternatives, that we don’t depend only on olives.

**Because now you totally depend on olives**

Yes, because practically, there is nothing else here.

**And can you live well from that?**

Well, it goes. The costs are also higher every time, the prices are also a little bit better, but the costs are also higher. So often, you also don’t earn that much.

**So you would like to diversify more**

Well if you don’t have anything else, you are surviving.

**Would you be interested to collect and sell your pruning rests?**

Yes, instead of burning or chipping it, we could collect it and maybe we could sell it. I don’t think there will be a problem.

**And how much pruning rests are generated in your fields?**

I can’t tell you, because that differs per tree and per year. Sometimes you have bigger branches, sometimes smaller. I can’t tell you.

**Would that be more work for you, to collect and sell the pruning rests instead of chipping or burning it?**

I think it will be the same.

**Under what conditions would you be willing to sell your pruning rests?**

If it is worth the work, then it can give an extra income. Because now it isn’t profitable, we don’t get any benefit. You need gasoline for the chainsaw, for example. We make costs now, but we don’t get any benefits. If you sell it, even if you would just earn as much to cover the costs, that would already be beneficial.

**And what kind of benefits could it generate for you?**

Like I said, to cover the costs at least.

**What is preventing you currently from doing it now?**

It didn’t occur to anyone yet, there is no possibility to do it.

**Are you open to change your practices?**

Yes, if it is beneficial, why not

**Are you open to use cover crops, other crops for example energy crops that also can be used for biofuels?**

In some locations they are doing that, it’s called Olivares vivos, they sow plants in the middle of the olive streets.

**Would you be interested to do that?**

If it will be in an natural form, yes.

**On a scale from 1-10, how interested are you to participate in a project like this?**

I don’t know, a 7

**And on a scale from 1-10, how much influence do you think you can have on a project like this?**

If the pruning rests will be used for other things than we do now, like chipping, it remains in the soil, which is like a compost. The other way, we burn it, what happens is that the ash remains, that’s it. So it can be used in another way, that could be a good opportunity, because we also don’t have petroleum here or something. The problems we have now, we depend for our light and everything on people from outside, from other countries.

**We also would like to understand also better the level of wellbeing of the olive farmers here. And if there are maybe things that could be improved. Therefore, we prepared some cards that represent different aspects of life, or opportunities that you might need to love a good life. You can take your time to take a look at the cards and read the categories.**

**We would like to ask you, which aspects are important to you?**

This for example, is very important, education. When I grew up, I didn’t have opportunities to study. I stayed here and that was it. That was because there were no opportunities. For me that is very important.

Care for the environment is also very important, if the environment is well, we are also doing well.

This as well, health, if you don’t have health, you cannot do anything. Health, education, these are important. Also dignity, that we treat each other with respect and dignity. Yes this one, that is what I was talking about, equality. What is happening a lot, is that without even knowing the person, people are already prejudicing. We need to be all equal. And respect each other.

**How is it for you, to work in this sector as a woman? Is your position equal to that of men?**

Before, we as women, we didn’t work in the fields, it was work by hand. We did help collecting the olives that fell on the ground, now I help out more, also because we have machines to help in the harvest. But I do other things than the men, because I have less physical power.

**Are there more women that work in the olive sector here?**

Yes

**What percentage of the people working in the sector is woman, do you know?**

I think about the same as men, because often it is family business, you inherit the land from your parents and if your parents have a son and a daughter, they both get land.

**Do you also participate in the cooperative, and in reunions?**

Yes sometimes I do, I am member as well. My mother was also member and my grandmother as well.

**If you could choose aspects that you would like to change, from these cards. What would that be? Is something lacking?**

I don’t know, for me the most important thing is to be healthy, if you have a disease, that you have the opportunity that a doctor can take a look at it. But here, we don’t have problems with it. There are of course always things you can improve, but we don’t lack anything. Education is also a lot better now than before. There a lot more opportunities. With the age I have, I don’t see a lot of things to improve. For me education, that was difficult for me, I didn’t have that opportunity. But the situation is different now, the generation now has more opportunities.

**And if you would earn more income, how would you spend that?**

Maybe I would invest it, you always need, for example now we need to have another vibrator. And also, it always costs money to have gasoline for example. Also when machines break, you need to repair them. I would use it to cover costs.

**So if you see these aspects, you are satisfied, there aren’t things you would like to change or improve?**

I don’t know, for example security, here we don’t have that much trouble with that. But I see that some young people are causing problems, that worries me sometimes, that there is more violence. They do things that don’t make sense.

**And is that also a problem here in the village?**

No here not, it is very quiet here.

**Thank you very much**