**F25 - Interview farmer #25, Jose, Cambil 25-11-2021**

**Firstly, introduce yourself.**

I am [name]’s cousin and I’ve been living in Cambil my whole life. I am 35 years old. I am married. I have a 9-month daughter, very little.

**Do you work in the field?**

Yes, I work at 50% in the fields and construction. I do not have olive trees to make a living from the crops, but what happens here in Cambil is that it is like everything stops for a while to dedicate ourselves to the olive harvest.

Yes, well, so the rest of the year I work in the construction industry. I am autonomous, and now, for example, I am not harvesting my olives, but I am working for others. Now, I am picking them for my uncle, a cousin of mine… In this way, it remains within the family, but actually, I have 15 days of harvest, then my father has around 30, my uncle approximately 15… And in this way, we cover the season, that is around 70 working days that lasts until mid-February. It also depends on the rain. If it rains, we cannot work. Some years we end sooner, and others later.

**Then you work in the fields during the harvest and the rest of the year…**

The rest of the year I work in construction, but of course, we also have to do lots of tasks in the fields. It is necessary to prune, fertilize, treat, that is sulfate olive trees, use phytosanitary products. Actually, it is necessary to be doing stuff for the crops for almost the whole year. Lots of things, such as weeds, the floor, to fix it. This is not all about harvesting olives and leaving it there until the next year, no, in fact, it is far from that. And well, in my case I have few, and I have to dedicate myself to another task, but those who have… A family that had around 3000 or 4000 olive trees, they have to invest the entire year.

**Because ¿how many trees do you have? ¿Or how many hectares?**

Hectares, I do not know, but I have around 400 (olive trees).

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

Well, nothing. We meet at 9 (am), we go to the fields and work there until 12, when we stop and eat a snack, just for 15 minutes or less. We have a beer, and then we keep working until 2 (pm) when we stop for lunch, and at 3.15, we start again until 4.30. At 4.30, we stop, we end, and we go with the olives inside a trailer to the mill. Have you been to the mill, right?

Then you arrive, prepare the gasoline, a battery machine, the load, you prepare that for tomorrow, for Sunday.

**Do you end the day at 6 pm? Or at 7 pm?**

Yes, I get back home at 6.20 pm. As you go to the mill, you weigh, and well, now there are not yet many people that already started. But when everyone starts, we can stay at the mill an hour doing a queue for weighting because if you have been there, all the esplanade that there is in front of the mill and all the slopes that there are from there up to where the weights are, all that is full of cars with trailers, tractors… Then, you can spend there one hour or more.

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

So, going home and going to bed soon, because is a hard job. Especially here, because if you are in the area of Jaén, everything is very flat in there, but here it is full of slopes, and it is far more laborious. There are places where tractors or cars cannot get in, and you have to carry yourself the olives. It is way more laborious than in a flat place, where most of the work is done by tractors. Here it takes more effort. Maybe in the field, in “la campiña”, flatter landscape, close to Jaén, Úbeda, maybe there, a group of four people with tractors that vibrate the whole olive trees can harvest the double than here or more than double. Here, if we go three, and you collect 1200, it is enough, with that, the day goes well. And this there, in “la campiña”(flatter landscape) they pick up that amount per person because they have the ease that they can be assisted by machines, for everything, to load… We have to do everything manually.

**And what do you enjoy in the day?**

What I like the most is this, being in the fields, outdoors, although sometimes it is cold, others it is windy. But well, I like this better than construction. Actually, because these are the olive trees from your parents, your grandparents, since ever. And since you were little, you have been going to the olive trees. Therefore, it is like it is yours, since ever, and then, in the end, you like it. Well, not everybody likes it, but it does for me. I am lucky because we work with the family, you don’t have to be with other people. Also, working with family is less work and that’s why I like the field.

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

I don’t know, to be honest. Above all, olive oil price. Because here we provide the olives, and now we have to wait to know how much the olive oil is. Because this year is not bad at all, it is around 3€ per liter or so, but in the past, there were two or three years that it was half of that price. Then, with the same amount of work, the same production, you can be earning half compared with this year. I would change that, at least to establish a minimum price, I don’t know, to avoid sharp increases and decreases. Because, well, we can do nothing…

**Do you live here? With whom?**

Yes, with my wife and my daughter.

**Have you always lived here, in Cambil?**

Yes

**How is life in this town?**

Here, life is really quiet. Here there is not a lot of leisure, but well, it is quiet.

**Do you feel safe in here?**

Yes, but in which sense?

**Do you feel here in the community where you live?**

Yes, yes. Here we know everyone. Here, there should be around 3000 people, and we know everyone. There is always someone kinder and someone worse, but as in every place. But safe, of course, I wouldn’t change it to another place. Of course not. I have a lot of friends that live in Madrid, in Belgium, and they think “I don’t know how you can be living there, still in Cambil…” But I like it, they don’t, but I like it.

**Which sources of energy do you use at home?**

At my place, it is 100% electricity We do not have heating. At my parents’, they have gas for cooking and fire for heating. From the firewood that we get from the olive trees, from there to the fire. But at home, we only have electricity.

**Is there any service that you need or that you would like to have? At home or in general, in the town.**

I don’t know, to be honest. Some more shops, because anything that you have to buy, you have to go to Jaén. Some clothes shop… I don’t know if you mean that. Here, anything except food, you have to go to Jaén to buy it. Here there are only very small shops; there is a hardware store, two or three food stores, and few others. There is nothing about clothes, shoes… there is nothing. But, well, it takes 20 minutes.

**You said that you like working in the field. What relevance does the natural environment have for you?**

Everything. In fact, it is what we live on. For example, many years ago, 15 years at least, there were lots of frosts and the temperature dropped a lot, and there were lots of olives that got frozen. This, for the town, is a ruin. For this reason, the environment is what feeds us, it is the most important thing, of course.

**Is something you are thinking about in your job, in your life?**

Actually, you don’t think about it. You go to the field and, well, you do your job, but you don’t realize how important the environment is for me, and to take care of it. You don’t think that. And well, we are quite young, but older people have a different mindset, that’s trash, and not taking care of the environment. Light fire… elder people, they don’t have that thought about taking care of the environment.

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

No. I don’t know. Actually, I don’t know. It depends on society that we take care of the environment, but it is hard because you can do it right, but there might be ten people behind that are doing it wrong.

For example, I like cycling and I go on the road, and I can tell you that there is not even one meter between a can and another. In the ditches, in all of them, wherever you go. And that, every time more and more. It makes me very sad, and it is like that, trash, and trash. That about going in a car, and through the window and bang! So, I don’t know, I would change that. But how do you change that? Because you can change, but what about people? They do whatever they want.

**How long have you been working on the field?**

Working… Since I was 15 or 16 years old, I was already working, even when it was not working at all. But when I decided to quit my studies to start working, I was 16 years old. But I’ve been my whole life helping my parents. During the weekends, when we didn’t go to school, we helped our parents in the fields and with all the tasks. When I left my studies, then it was when I dedicated myself to working in the field and construction.

**Why did you choose to do this?**

I didn’t like studying. I wasn’t bad at all, but I didn’t like it. And I don’t regret it, to be honest. I like my job, although it is hard or bad, but I like it. I went to school, and then to high school. It was a big effort/pain, I didn’t like it. I finished my mandatory studies, which are called “ESO” here, and I never retook anything, neither any course, but when I finished the mandatory ones, I quit, and I started working.

**How did you learn to work?**

With my father. My father has been a cabinetmaker his whole life too. Working, he has been who taught me. And the same in the field. In the field is like Alfonso. If you ask him, he does not work in the field, but he knows what to do in the field, because he has been seeing that since he was a child, he has been doing that, and he is still doing it. Whenever he can, he helps. I guess he already told you.

Here, we have been watching the fields since we were children. Then, we learn this way. We don’t need to take a course or anything.

**How do you learn new things now? Are you looking for new things or…?**

In the field, there is little to learn now. There is always progress, there is new machinery. Harvesting olives is not like harvesting olives thirty years ago anymore. Thirty years ago, we carried bars and blankets, and that was all. Now we take vibrators, we carry machines that are like sticks and move with batteries. Anyway, a lot of things.

And in construction, you learn every day as well. I always say that there is no day in construction in which you learn nothing because every construction work you do is different. And well, those who construct houses… For example, I do renovation works, and renovation works are different, in all aspects. You learn every day, in practice. Some new products are also released, to put tiles, and you have to learn as you work. Things change, and you evolve with them.

**Is there anything you would like to change or improve in your job?**

I don’t know, to be honest. I don’t know. There is always something to improve, but I’ve never thought about what to change or improve. I don’t know, to be honest.

**Do you go to other places? Or do you have opportunities to visit other places? As leisure.**

Yes, of course. I have (time) to go on trips, of course, there is always time, not everything is about working. If everything was working, it would be very boring, right?

**To other cities in Spain? Or abroad?**

Yes, I go on trips, of course.

**Is it something that you would like to do more often or change in some way? Or are you satisfied?**

Actually, I’m satisfied in that sense. I don’t like traveling that much, but well, in summer we always go to the beach. And well, in that sense, it’s fine. Abroad, we have been a few times, actually. To Belgium, where my friends are, as I told you before, France, as I have family there, and here in Spain, we go on trips to know it as well. Mainly in summer, to the beach.

**You said that you are in the cooperative here in Cambil. Are you active in other areas, such as politics?**

No, I’m not interested in politics. And the cooperative, in what is the board of the cooperative, I’ve never been to a meeting. When there is a meeting, most people go, but I’ve never been.

**Why?**

Actually, I have between 300 and 400 olive trees, and I don’t make a living from that. Then, people who attend are those who make a living from that. Although we all should go, because it is something that concerns everyone, but I’ve never been worried about going, to be honest.

**What happens if your income depends on olive trees?**

It can be possible. From my olive trees… around 30% of the income comes from olive trees.

**Do you think you can live comfortably with the income you have now?**

Yes, I live well.

**Do you have any opportunity to save money?**

Yes, but it is because my wife works. My wife is a teacher, and she works in the kindergarten here in Cambil. And of course, we don’t save a big amount, but well, we’re fine.

**And if you could earn more money with the crops, in your job, in which way would you like to spend it?**

So, in leisure, mainly. And of course, I would like to invest in buying a house for the future, or if someone sells olive trees that I like, then I would like to buy them, of course. I would like to make a living only from my own olive trees, and not have to work in construction, to be honest. Instead of doing what I’m doing now, to go to harvest olives with my uncles… If I had olive trees to work only on mines and be autonomous, I would be happy.

**Do you have the opportunity to achieve that?**

Yes, over time. What happens is that olive trees are now expensive because there is high demand. Here you sell an area with olive trees, and anyone can buy it. Then, it is difficult in that sense, and they are expensive. Maybe, one “olive”, here we talk about trees, a tree may cost between 300€ and 500€ if they are very good. Then, to buy a big area of olive trees that is good, then it is a lot of money.

**Besides that, is there anything else that you would like to achieve? Do you have any dreams for the future?**

To be honest, I don’t know. I do not come up with very big goals. I am very austere and with all I have everything I need to live… everything else is a surplus. Neither I don’t like luxury, or cars (as Mercedes). I am happy in this way; I do not need much more.

**Then, are you currently satisfied with your life?**

Yes

**Do you have any worries?**

Worries? Actually, few, I live very peacefully. I have stability, and to be honest, I don’t have many worries, or almost none…

**How is your physical condition?**

I feel very well. Some days you end up very tired, but I feel good. I like cycling. I feel stupendous. In addition, I like tough jobs, I like getting home tired.

**Yes, because it is very physical work, but you can do it**

Of course, then you don’t get fat. You can eat a lot and not gain weight, you burn everything.

**And how are your relationships? In the community and with your friends.**

I have a lot of friends, but eventually, I have less because you get married, they get married, you have children, and we see each other less often. And with the neighbours, it is great. I don’t have any enemies or anyone that has bad thoughts for me, I guess.

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

To be honest, no, because I don’t see my friends due to the circumstances, because you get married and have children and everything becomes different, it is more difficult to meet. We meet when there is a wedding, if someone is getting married. In that sense, good. Alfonso can tell you that the group of friends we have is really big, and we had good times together, really good times.

**What do you do when you are with your friends or family?**

Normal things, such as drinking, eating, having fun. Only being together is enough to have fun. We rent a house in a rural area and spend the weekend there. And well, in the past, when we were young, parties… Drinks and parties. But not anymore, just a few drinks now. That’s for younger people.

**Now we have some cards here. We have been talking about different topics, and we would like to know how important those are for you, to live well, to make you feel good. You have to order these based on relevance. The first one is the environment. How important is that for you?**

As I told you before, we make a living on it, so if we do not take care of it… It is like if I eat this and I throw the packaging there, and I’m going to see it there every day. But people don’t care, they just move them with their feet. If that bothers them, they kick it, and that’s all.

**Now, something that you do in the field, ecologic. Do you use chemical products?**

I don’t use poison. My olives are not 100% ecological because I do use fertilizers, manure. Then, they cannot be considered ecological. But when I treat them, here it is called to sulfate them, I never use poison for olive insects. Some insects are beneficial, and others are harmful. But there are a lot of insects that attack the bad ones. Therefore, if you use poison, then you kill all of them, and in the end, I think that is worse. Nature has its balance. If you kill the bad ones, the good ones also die because they feed on the bad.

I never use poison in the olives, only when there are weeds, to get rid of them. But only when it is essential.

**Self-determination. For instance, you can make your own decisions.**

To be free? I would put that here as well, because if you don’t depend on yourself, and you always depend on having a schedule, a job, struggling… That’s why I tell you that I would like to make a living on my own trees, because imagine that one day you don’t feel like working, then you can remain in your bed, and nothing happens.

**And now you have it due to construction and olive trees…**

Now, I can’t do it, when I am on my own. Now, I’m working with my uncle, and also in the construction industry, so it is like if I were working for another company, do you understand? Then, it is not the same as being on your own. If I worked on my own, and now at noon, I was tired and wanted to go home, I would do it. But if I am at construction, then I have to work for 8 hours, and those are 8 hours that you have to stay there. Well, now the working day for the head is 6 hours and a half, so you have to work for 6 hours and a half. When I go with my father, some days after 4 hours we say, “let’s go” and we go home. But we don’t always say so, because we actually work every day, but it is not the same.

**Mental health**

Everything is important. It is difficult to put something in a lower position. Mental health is important as well because if you don’t feel good, then everything else doesn’t matter.

**And for you now?**

Yes. I’m good.

**Self-expression. Expressing yourself freely.**

Of course, it is also important. Maybe I would put this in a middle position. Yes, because maybe what people think is not that important for me. It is important not to be dominated, but, well, I don’t fully understand. Being accepted by others? I don’t care about what people think. But, yes, being able to express yourself… If you have a problem, and you cannot say anything because you are not allowed… Then, that’s important too.

**And safety?**

It is also important, but I don’t have that problem here. I guess that in a big city, you can bump into any kind of person, but here, I can tell you that we know everyone, and there are no problems. I would put this here because in Cambil there is not any safety issue or vandalism. Here I leave my car in front of the door, with the keys, I come here, and when I go back, nobody touches the car. Nothing happens. The bicycle with the keys, I go in, I do the interview, and the bicycle is where I left it. Nothing happens.

**And social support? Social relationships?**

I would put it here as well. It is important but not essential. Actually, I am quite autonomous for everything. Lonely. I like being alone. Of course, it is important to have support, but, well, it is not that crucial for me.

**Physical health?**

Here, directly on top. Because if you are not physically good, then everything else is not important anymore. If you are not physically well, a leg hurts, or you cannot do something you like because of physical problems, then everything else is nothing.

\*\* I’m not sure if you understand everything, as I speak *andaluz*, half of the words…. \*\*

**Public participation**

Public participation? I do not understand… What could it be?

**Do you think you have the same opportunities as other people? In terms of participating in the community or society.**

Yes, of course. We have the same rights, opportunities. A different aspect is whether I like it, or I feel like participating, such as politics. I am not really interested in politics, for me, that’s the worst because the only thing that there is, is interest. When the election season arrives, everyone is good and makes promises, but afterward, all of them are the same (politicians). They only want to reach the power and fill their pockets. I don’t know if it is everywhere the same way, but in Spain and Cambil, it is like this. In this sense, I would put it there.

**Leisure and spare time.**

So, indeed here there are cyclists. When I spend more than 4 or 5 days without doing sports or something that I like, then my mood becomes bad. Yes, I need to do sports, I like it a lot. If I couldn’t because of work, or I don’t know, sometimes you can’t, because of my daughter, or you have to take care… Then I need it. I go out, even if it is at night, I need to go out and do sports.

**Do you have enough time for leisure?**

Now, during the olive season, no, because you get home at night, and you don’t have time to do sports. I put a roller on the bike in the house for a while, or some days I put a light on the bike and through the field. But of course, it is not like before that maybe I can go out for sports five or six times per week.

**Only during that period?**

Yes, the olive season. Indeed, I take it as a pre-season, which is necessary as well.

**Does spirituality have a role in your life?**

There directly, I’m atheist, I don’t believe.

**Education and critical thinking?**

I would put this here.

**Why?**

Because if you don’t have education, access to education… That is the base of everything else. If you don’t have an education, or you don’t have the right to education, it is like if you are in a country of the Third World, where people can’t go to school, because they don’t have, and, in the end, you are never going to progress. Conversely, you are going to go backward. Then, it is the most important, I think.

**Do you think you have enough opportunities to have an education?**

I think so. A different point of view is if you take those opportunities or not. I think here we have the opportunity to study what we want to, I think so. Maybe there might be a family with economic problems, but in those cases, there are grants and scholarships. Therefore, whoever wants to study, can.

**And what about having a satisfactory job?**

I would put this here as well. It is important.

**Do you feel satisfied with your job?**

Yes, I do. It is about what we talked about before, this is tough work, and not everyone likes it. For example, about people of my age that work in both construction and field, I can tell you that there would be two or three. Here, in Cambil, there are no more. Most of the people, they studied, and they are somewhere else, or working but in other areas. But in construction or on the field, people of my same age…. At school we were around 30 people, but now only three of four are doing the same as me.

**Did the rest leave the town?**

Yes, most of them.

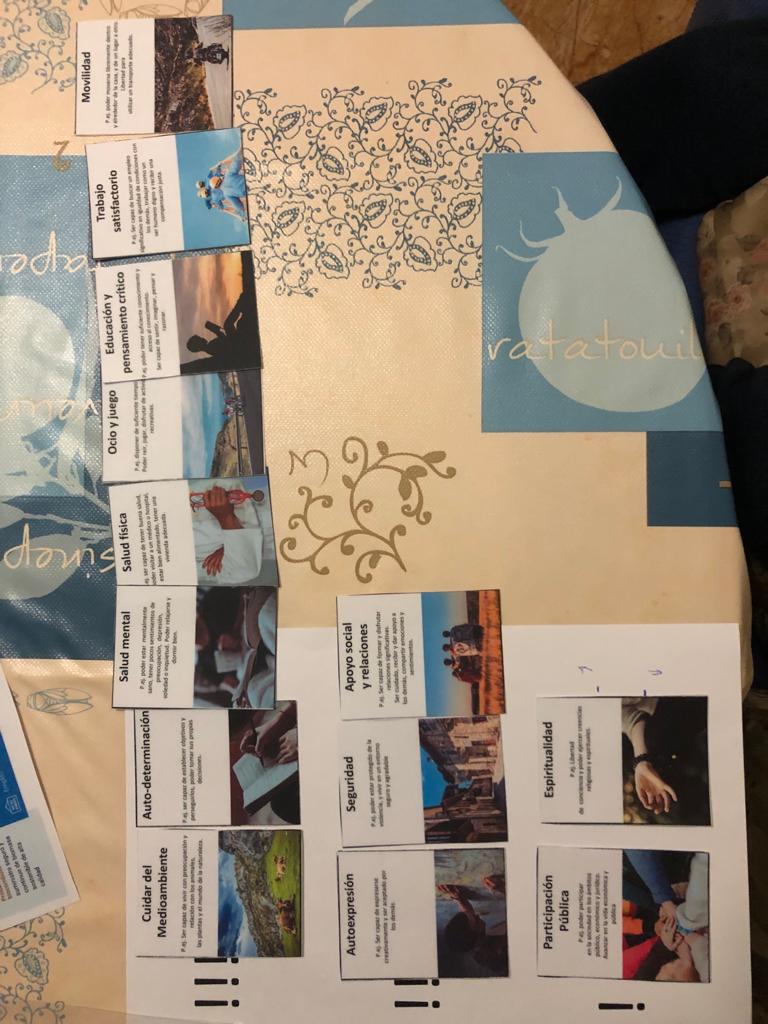
**Now we have mobility.**

This one goes here as well. It is the most important thing we have, freedom. When we went into a lockdown, we realized. Indeed, I thought about that, how important freedom is, the ability of going wherever you want, whenever you want. Take your car and say: “now I’m going there”. And I realized that during the lockdown. Freedom is the most important thing we have. Being free to go wherever or do whatever you want. When someone takes you from that, this would be, I don’t know… Then, I would say it is the most important.

**Are you satisfied with that?**

Yes, I can go wherever I want and do whatever I want. Well, as long as it is legal. In that sense, yes.

**Picture of the capability cards:**

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**Now we have some questions about your land and pruning rests. We want to study that concept and the idea is that different local communities can provide biomass, which can be rests of pruning or wet olive pomace, for instance. This can be processed here, in a biorefinery, where biofuels can be produced, and biocarbon, which can be again used in the land. We would like to understand if this could be possible here, in this area, if people are open to that concept. Firstly, we would like to know what you do with pruning rests.**

In the past, pruning rests were burnt. Tree trunks are carried to heat houses and the rest is burnt. Now, thanks to tractors, there are some machines, “mincers”, and they are converted into small pieces in the field, and they are left there, they serve as compost. But that happens now. Maybe, since three or four years ago. Before that, all was burnt.

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

As I said, in the past, they were burnt, but now they are crushed. And about firewood, I don’t use it at home, but my parents do. Then, we bring firewood home.

**Why do you do it like this?**

The main reason is that when we crush them, they serve as compost for the land. In those places where there are slopes, when it rains, water creates gorges. That prevents water from going through, avoiding erosion. Mostly, it is used as compost, and you don’t have to burn it, to be honest. Burning the rests is laborious, and it makes a big fire. Thus, crushing is much easier. You take the rest from underneath of the trees; the tractor goes through and crushes them.

**Is it an external company that does that?**

No. Here, not everybody has a tractor. Those who don’t have, we call the other: ·look, here I have 100 trees that must be crushed”. And someone comes, does the work, you pay them, and that’s all.

**Would you be interested in selling pruning rests?**

Yes, of course, as it increases profitability. You must be aware that after pruning, getting rid of the rest in some way or another, implies some costs. If you have to burn them, in my case, I have only a few trees and I can do it myself. But those who have lots of trees, have to hire people and pay them for burning or crushing the pruning rests. For example, I have to look for a tractor, so I have to pay to crush the rests. Therefore, if I can make a profit from the rests, of course, yes.

**Are there still a lot of people that burn pruning rests in this area?**

Yes, a lot, the majority, I would say. The number is decreasing because people are adapting, but there are still a lot of people burning them. Also, there are some places where tractors cannot access. Therefore, they have to burn the pruning rest because it is the only option. But I would say that around 80% of Cambil could be crushed, although there are a lot of people that prefer burning, as it is the traditional way.

**Does it generate a lot of smoke?**

No. It generates smoke, but you don’t notice in Cambil that it is the pruning season. It is not annoying. You can spot the fire. It implies CO2, but I would say it is not more polluting than that generated by a tractor.

**Do you think that using pruning rests might provide additional benefits? In which way?**

I don’t know. That may generate biofuels, right? I would say that because I don’t know anything else.

**Would you mind if, for instance, you had to bring pruning rests somewhere? Or would you prefer a company to come and take them for you?**

That is difficult as well because the pruning rests have a huge volume. If you prune 100 olive trees, you can’t take that into the trail. I guess you have already seen the cars with trails, which is what we have here. To carry pruning rests from 100 olive trees there, you would need around 20 journeys with a trail, I don’t know. That would require big trucks, with machines.

**If there would be a company that did that, would it be possible?**

Of course. As long as trucks could access the field because that might be complicated. Here, the land is difficult, it is complicated in that sense. But, of course, not everything is about hills here. From Jaén, the landscape changes. There, there is not any problem to collect. But here, a truck shouldn't be too big to be able to access the available roads and places. Here it might be difficult. About picking up pruning rests and carrying them to a plant, that would be complicated.

**Thanks a lot. I don’t know if you want to share something else.**

I don't know. Don’t say thank you because this isn’t work, I really wanted to help.

**Well, thank you because you were busy with your work.**

Anytime. Today the work is already done, no problem. I’m going to rest. Also, here it feels good.