**F9CF - Interview farmer #9 coffee + cocoa farmer Dosquebradas, 47 - 12-7-2022**

**More than a question-answer interview, we pretend to do this more like a conversation. Here I have some questions and like I said before, you have freedom to say “I don’t want to respond this one”. To begin, could you introduce yourself? Who do you live with? Age?**

Perfect. Ready? Ready, my name is [name]. I am son of the owners of this plot, my parents, my mom and my dad. This is a 34 000 square meters plot, so 3 hectares and small bit. We have planted 10 000 meters with coffee… not 10 000 meters, 10 000 coffee plants and about 200 cocoa plants. My family lives here, too. My wife and my son. We all live in the plot. And we live from the farming, from tourism and from additional services such as toasting coffee for other people. I don’t know what else to say. Oh, my age. I am 47 years old. 47 years old with a son. I am a professional. I am a veterinary but I am invested in the plot.

**Perfect. Do you belong to any cooperative or association for cocoa and coffee?**

That’s correct. We belong to the national coffee farmers’ federation. Specifically, my dad is the one inscribed and my dad is the plot’s owner. He is the one with the coffee farmer registration. Additional to that, we belong to a different association called the

A small coffee farmers’ association

**Describing your daily life… How would you describe an ordinary life from the moment you get up?**

How is an ordinary day? Well, let me tell you, more or less. We are starting around 7 am to toast coffee. My responsibilities are, of course at 7 am I get my son ready, at 7 am I am already toasting coffee with Santiago and looking at orders. At 9 am we begin to receive the first touristic tour of the day, when there is one, sometimes there is none, and we do it until 12 pm. At noon, we have lunch until 1 pm and then we take a break and at 2 pm with start again with a tour, if there is any, and otherwise, we do other office work, like quotations, sales, contacting… We are finishing around 5 or 6 pm with our work with coffee. Of course, we have another person in charge of the tasks for farming. Sowing, recollecting. All of these tasks. My son arrives around 4 pm from school and in the afternoon we all eat together. Luckily, around 7 or 8 at night, I play pool with my dad and at 9 pm we go to bed. That is my every day and it goes like that all day long and it is more intense during high touristic seasons, in summer when we have more people visiting from Europe.

**Do you have sufficient time to do everything you have to do in the day?**

I lack some because we do a lot of things and we delegate only a few. I still have to do many things. For example, around cocoa I still have to do many things. I left the beer on the side.

**When do you rest?**

Well, resting occurs mostly in low tourism seasons. Here, there are no free Saturdays nor Sundays because it is on Saturdays and Sundays when we have the most tourists. But, usually, let’s say, from February, March, April, until may, this is the slow season. Then, October and November are touristic slow seasons. That season is when I get rest. But also, resting is very relative because if there is not work on a weekend we go to a little town. We can easily rest here.

**What is it that you enjoy the most during the day?**

Well, I enjoy everything. I like what I do. We do what we like to do. We live in the middle of nature. I share it with my family and my son spends time with his grandpa, we have a very important family relationship. I share with… Sharing with the tourists that come here, sharing with different cultures. In reality, I enjoy my every day. I don’t like going to the city, of course.

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

Something about my every day that I would like to change?

**Or something that…**

No, not really. I’m satisfied. I’m satisfied with my lifestyle. I would like to have a little bit more of time for some stuff. For time to be sufficient but other than that I am satisfied with everything I do.

**For how long have you been doing these activities?**

Ok, we have been doing this for 10 years… More or less 10, 12 years we have been involved with the plot. Before, I used to live in the city. So I have been enjoying of doing this for 10 years. Every day I get more into it, because at the beginning it was once a week, two times a week. I still had things to do in Pereida since I had a business in Pereida. But now it is full time here and I don’t want to do anything with the other things.

**You mentioned you studied veterinary**

Yes

**So, what happened with that veterinary consultancy and why are you doing this job that is…**

It is funny. I did a first semester… One and a half semester of agricultural sciences, and during that first semester, when they started to teach us mathematics, I realized it was too hard, it was too much mathematics. So I quit but I didn’t want to get away from farming so I went for veterinary. When I finished veterinary I didn’t unintelligible so there was lot of commercial work with pharmaceuticals and feedstock companies. I went through another professional path working with particulars and I then finally came back to farming but focused on the plants.

**You have always been close to farming, one way or another…**

(To someone else) you thresh it and then I’ll catch up with you

**Where… Yes, where did you learn or where have you been acquiring this knowledge…**

About coffee?

**Yes, on the coffee business**

Well, obviously we had to start from zero. In my case, I didn’t use to enjoy drinking coffee. But, led by the National Coffee farmers’ federation, at the beginning, together with another entity that has really lend a hand, the Sena, the Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje. They were the ones that have always helped us. And nowadays, there are many other entities and there are virtual courses, a lot of friends who knows things and therefore there is a lot of information sharing. When we first started there was nothing. It was very little the information available. Nowadays there is a lot of sharing everywhere and there is a lot of information sources.

**You say there was not that much, what do you consider you are very good?**

What do we consider we are very good in? Let’s see… In reality, we think that the thing we do very good is sharing with people the whole process and explain it little by little so that people understand it the best way possible. I think that is the part we do the best and that’s what differentiate us from others doing similar things. We are very detailed on the process.

**You have told us a little about you leaving that city life, migrating from the city to the countryside. That process has been ongoing for ten years but is there any other activity you would like to do, additional to the ones you already do here?**

No, well, aside of this I like to travel, but more as a recreational thing. I like to travel. Cooking. I currently like cooking a lot and everything has to do with cooking. It is very related to physics; to chemistry and I had gotten to realize that many of the things I studied are related to this thing I do every day.

**Is there… Well, leaving behind a little the personal topics… You were telling us that when you don’t have such a busy weekend, when you don’t have tourists or visits, you go out. How frequent are those outings, where do you go?**

Well, they are frequent during slow touristic seasons and we can go out every weekend. We go to little towns or to discover small cafés, or we go to natural parks. I love going out to nature and here, whenever I can, I love going to the Florida, I go to Santa Rosa, I go to Marisales. Let’s say I can do it frequently to places very close to here, since, in fact, the coffee axis allows to do that. It allows to have that lifestyle. Less frequently, I go else were but I do it once or twice a year. I go to other places less frequently, I go to the coast or outside the country, right?

**The question here is what transportation means do you usually use? Own? Public ones?**

In reality, it is my own transportation means. Yes. Public ones, rarely.

**This one is related to the previous one and it is, can you go where you want to go, whenever you want to?**

Can I go wherever I want to, when… But talking about access to transportation means or due to economic feasibility?

**Both of them.**

Well, of course, by transportation availability I can. Regarding economic means, there are limitations, right? I would like to travel more but…

**Within this context, when you travel… you travel with your family, right?**

I travel with my wife and son. Sometimes with my parents.

**The question is, in the coffee axis, where you tell me you move the most through, is it safe to travel, safe to go? Is there any sort of issue, related to safety, that you might not be too happy about or is there something you might have to mention regarding safety?**

No, no. In the coffee axis I feel safe, I don’t have any issue. Actually, whenever we travel, we always check it is a safe place. But when we are in the coffee axis, without leaving the coffee axis we are totally safe. Now, if I want to go to Chocó, then I have to think about it or if I want to go further than Pueblorrico, I start to think about it, right?

**The next one is, whitin your and your family’s activities, on technology access, telephone, television, information… Which of these are the elements you have access to and to which ones you don’t?**

No, let’s see. I think that on technology access we have access to everything. We have… Practically every member has their own phone, we have tablets, we have computers, we have internet access. Always, here in the plot and personal one. We always have information.

**Within this information, is there information that you consider you can’t access easily or that there is information you can’t easily access to and you would like to have access?**

No, I think that currently… there is an excess of information. People lack initiative to find where the information is, right? But other than that… All the information you might want is there. There are courses everyone. You have to look more into it.

**And, regarding information, it is the question on how has information changed or how has it helped you to grow in the last few years? Let’s talk about the last 10 years you have been here at the plot, as such. How has information helped you to improve or to open up or to expand?**

Well, of course, access to information has increase my knowledge and has increased the capability for negotiation, and making contacts that I could previously have.

**Are you linked with… You have already mention you are in Fedecafé, but are there other boards going in at a smaller scale in the region?**

There are some boars… I am not in the community activities boards but I am in some clusters. I am in the tourism clusters from Quebradas, there is another tourism cluster form Pereida, there is another board called coffee Friends… Well, yeah, we do have many groups.

**Going deeper on these groups and civil participation, the specific questions is, do you consider that the government, national, municipal and regional, provide sufficient support for the development of the activities?**

You know what? I have a particular view on it. I don’t expect much help from the government. There is a lot of people complaining about government not helping them. In our case we have some particular conditions. We are close to the city, where we have a lot of benefits, right? It might be the case that if there was some more support… Maybe, but I think that a lot of the initiatives have to come from the particular sphere. In fact, sometimes I think it is them reaching to us to start an initiative. But that happens when they see things are rolling. One they see things are working. That’s when they look for you. I’m talking about the municipality, about government and the federation itself. That’s when they look for you and to offer things.

**Is there any regional or national political situation that insides in the decision making or that generates any particular effect on the development of activities?**

Man… Well, up to now, for us everything is going well. There is a high degree of uncertainty with the new government, that is true. But we will have to see what happens, right? We have to wait and see. But, so far, in my opinion… The thing is, as I was telling you, we have particular conditions, compared to someone who is far away. Here we are at a very special place.

**Regarding that situation, you are talking about the uncertainty around the new government, there is a large expectation… Let’s not talk about the old government, and we also can’t talk much about the new one, but let’s say that a political condition you would like to reach… More than changing something in politics… Or yeah, maybe, something that you would like to change in politics or something that you think should be different, what would that be?**

That should be different… Rather than something in politics, I would say it is in the educational a cultural level in Colombia. There is something we talk a lot about in the family and it is that Colombia is an island. It is an island despite being in a continent. Until very little ago, we didn’t like to travel. We didn’t know of other cultures. We were happy here. The further away for us was Bogota. We lack being more international. We are lacking culture and being more open. And that is what is happening here, right? To learn that there are things further there and that we can negotiate and that we can talk in similar conditions and that we have particular tastes. But it is something rather cultural and educational. Rather than political it is something cultural and educational. For example, the thing with English, it is a policy that should be very strong for the government. The topic of English. Here, we should have had English as a second language long time ago. In my case, I’m lacking.

**Regarding civic participation, your participation, do you feel free or restricted to express your political opinion, both in political activities as well as in community?**

No, I am totally free to express my opinion and, in fact, with great friends of mine, we support completely different politicians but we are able to have conversations and no, I don’t have any limitation, up to now.

**Let’s talk a little about what it is that brought you here, to the countryside and it is, what is the important that the natural environment has for you?**

Let’s see. I think that since I was very young, I used to like nature. Although of course, as kid what I wanted was party, girlfriends and friends. But with time, I was more and more pulled towards nature and by being in this piece of paradise, as we call it, you fall in love more and more with the things you have. I would say that within the most important things that have happened to me is having been able to live in a plot. And I make emphasis of this to all of the coffee farmers and it is that it might be that income is not always high, sometimes, but we are lucky to live in such calm places, free of pollution, free of noise. And for me, nowadays, that is what has the highest value.

**Regarding climate change, how is that in this region?**

Ok. Well, this area is an area characterized by rain almost every day, because it is sunny… But we have observed that the last few years the rain season has prolonged and it reflects on our coffee. Now we don’t have that clear harvesting seasons but now it is prolonged throughout the year and that is seen in the operational costs. That is one thing. The other thing is, you harvest less kilos, less kilos per hectare and therefore less money, right? There are strong events. A few years ago we had a significant growth of the river. I don’t know how many millimeters rained but I don’t think it has ever rained that much. It poured down for two hours, and of course it caused a landslide. Yesterday or the day before, there was some sort of cyclone here. These are phenomena that before would present themselves, yes, but not as frequently as now.

**Now, in the relationship you have with the environment is there something you would like to change, related to the environment, if you could?**

If there was something I could change, I think I’m already changing it. Because, in reality, we are sowing, we are being more responsible with the environment. I think that we could change, with our example, the neighbors. For example, we can do composting. Here, all of the residues are selected at their origin and each time we consume less plastic. Before, when tourists would come, we would give them a plastic bottle. But we then realized we can’t give them a plastic bottle, if they want water then here is a glass and there is the water dispenses, right? And all of the plastic is being taken to a place and changed for… Or we change the plastic for plastic wood, right? I think that what we could do, we are doing it. We do good water management, we plant trees. Let’s say we fertilize a fair amount and during the season the prevents volatilization of some of the components. I think that we are compromised. Of course, there is always more to do.

**Regarding that compromise, what type of fertilizers do you use in your crops?**

Right. We… Fertilizers… We use, let’s say, chemical fertilizers. We work a lot with Yara. These are slow-release fertilizers, which are not physical mixes but chemical mixes. But we have started to help the soil a little bit. On top of that, we started to sow corn with mycorrhiza to regenerate the soils a little. We are doing a little of composting. We compost everything, we compost everything here. But we started to do a lot of composting, primarily for our family garden. We do that with compost. With chemicals, the idea is to use as little chemicals as possible. We look a lot into the labels, for them to be the less harmful possible. Before we used to have an indiscriminately use of fertilizers but, I believe that 6 or 7 years ago, we started to go lower and lower. The practices are hard since we come from a very Americanized agriculture, maybe. The guy that works for us here, for him everything is about using herbicides, insecticides… But we started to change that little by little, right? So, we don’t use that much herbicide, we use the sickle instead and… it has been changing.

**Let’s go with… We will be changing a little bit of topic. We talked a little about the crops in a general way. Let’s now talk about the housing, in general terms. What kind of housing is it? Describe it for us.**

Well, here in the plot we have basically 3 houses. The one we are in now is my parents’ house. This has been the family home that has somewhat near 30 years. It is a concrete house equipped with all of the utilities. There are four restrooms, three bedrooms… (To someone else) Are you going to roast? I’ll be there. (Back to interviewer) Can we make a pause?

**Yes, we finish this one and we make the pause.**

Well, then, there are three houses. I live in another one with my wife, which has 2 bedrooms, built with concrete. Also 3 restrooms and we have another room… (To someone else) No, we will give them in a while. (Back to interviewer) And we have another room… Another house for guests which has capability for 6 people. (To someone else) I’ll be there.

**You have already answered these ones… Is there something you would like to change from your current house?**

No. It is all… Maybe enlarging my son’s room. It is not something required but maybe enlarging my son’s room. Maybe we could make the pause? Let’s make the pause. (To someone else) Shall we go and roast?

**Well, retaking it from we stopped, tell us about the energy. What type of energy do you have at home and what do you use it for?**

Ok. Right now we have energy being taken from the network. Electric energy. We use it for domestic activities and for the coffee plant, to de-pulping coffee. Everything is used there.

**Would you like to use a different type of energy?**

That’s right. We are in the process. We are in the quotation phase. The idea is… We are looking to replace, at least a part of that energy, 60, 80% of that energy, with solar panels. But we will see if the cost-benefit ratio is favorable. We consider it to be an important investment, therefore we want to see it is justifiable.

**Now, about water, how do you get it?**

We get it from the town’s aqueduct, called *De la Silvadora* aqueduct, and it belongs to the town called *La Silvadora.*

**Ok. Aside from the electric energy and the water from the aqueduct La Silvadora, are there other utilities you currently use?**

No. Not really. Internet… Right now we are not paying internet because we are staying in an apartment in Pereida. Regarding the antenna. And the telephone… Because after that landslide I mentioned, it got lost and they haven’t come to fix it yet. Based on that we looked for alternatives and no, we don’t have internet not a fixed phone. We are not paying for that.

**Ok. In addition… Well, here, you… Ok, internet and phone but due to the natural circumstances… It happened… But, is there any additional service you would like to have?**

It is possible that we get natural gas. We use propane gas for the machines, for the roaster. And we already have the access, we already have the access, linked to our house. Now it is about having determination to…

**Oh, so accessing to it is easy?**

Yes, yes. It is already there.

**Oh, ok. Perfect. Regarding safety, the town, the sector…**

The sector is safe. In general terms it is safe. There are some events, minor theft, some issues with drinking or party drama but nothing serious. In reality, all of the sector is safe and we have direct communication with the (police) headquarters. If anything is required, they are here within 10 minutes, the police.

**So, paraphrasing a little, you and your family feel safe enough to get out during the day or during the night, to arrive late at night.**

We do feel safe but still we take some precautions. So we compromise around a point of the night, not later than 10 pm. We then don’t do it, because of safety. And during the morning there is no issue, leaving at 5 in the morning, there is no issue.

**Within those minor situations, has there ever been any sort of intimidation directly towards you?**

Let’s see, there is intimidation here. I don’t know how to call that. Jail crimes? Which is when they call you from jail and they tell you that they are from the “Gaytanistas” and blah, blah, blah. But all of that is a cheat for you to give them money. Behind that there is never a real threat.

**Oh, ok. Like in every city. It is not only from this town…**

Yeah, no. Exactly.

**Regarding this… You mentioned your father owns the land… You said your father is the owner. Tell us a little about that acquisition. How long ago…**

Ok. Let me tell you a little. We were borned and grew in Marisales. My father, a university professor… but my mom was from here, from Pereida. Then, we would come down here every weekend, to visit my mom’s family. My grandparents. But we always had the idea of having a place to rest at. So they purchased this plot. More than a productive plot it was a holiday plot. And we got it in this area because my grandfather was pretty much born in the plot next to this one. So, he was the one who made the proposal to get it here. We’ve had the plot for around 40, 42 years. I don’t know exactly for how long. It went through many phases. Phases where we would only come for the weekends, we had only one house, it wouldn’t produce anything and it would online get money injected. Then in 2011, the federation invited us to re-sow coffee, because at the time we had paddocks, and to begin with a special coffee process. So that is how we got into a new phase in the history of this plot, thanks to the invitation from the coffee farmers’ federation.

**And currently, do you consider that the amount of land, meaning the area, is enough for the necessities or would you like to expand?**

Man… it is hard for a plot with this area to be profitable or for it to allow to live nicely. For us, with our conditions, where we exploit it in different ways, touristically and industrially, because roasting coffee is an industrial process, then the plot becomes profitable. In fact, my income comes from the plot. Also my wife’s and other peoples’. We would like to have more land but we know that it brings along more issues and we know that there is a lot of people who work the land very nicely. So, rather than having more land, we would like to do transformation processes and to do other activities. Marketing activities. Rather than having land, which is a complex issue.

**You mentioned that nearby there is a stream running, a small ravine…**

A small ravine

**Does that do the job of a watering system or do you have an additional water system for the crops?**

Well, that is a question we eventually get and I think that there are few watering systems in the region aside from the ones for avocado. But in general, coffee doesn’t need watering and even less in this region where it rains pretty much every day and even two times a day. We practically don’t need any watering. I think the longest period there has been without rain has been 15 days. And yet, at night you wake up and there is dew. Truth is there is no real necessity for it here.

**Ok. Now, going towards a self-reflection and dreaming area, as it says here, are you satisfied… You already mentioned you are, with your current life. You migrated from the city to the countryside for that but, specifically, what is the thing or the situation you are extremely proud?**

What am I extremely proud of? Man, I’m proud about my family core. I am proud to be able to work with my family. To be able to share time with my father, with my mother, to work with everyone. For me, that is what makes me proud. Of course, it makes me proud to properly portray Colombia, because a lot of tourists come here and we are exporting the best of Colombia. The quality of people, right? That is sometimes that makes me proud, too.

**Regarding work, you said it is your father who has the coffee farmer membership. Therefore, you are is assuming a generational turnover role. What would be the projection towards the future? To involve your son? Or how would that projection be? In a medium or long term.**

Yes. Of course, that would be the dream. For my son and my nieces, because there are in total three grandchildren, to take over the business. Because it is not huge land business but it is a business in which… (To someone else) Dad, could you please already mix that for me? Or have you already mixed it? Ok. (Back to interview) It is a business that already has a very good name for itself and as such, we would like for them to take over it. It is not easy because, of course, they are in a phase of their life’s where they want to be in the city. As such, they still don’t see it as an option in life.

**What would be the challenge? Or maybe not a challenge but the opportunity or the issue to attract young people towards farming?**

No, of course the countryside requires of more economical opportunities. That is essential, right? For a young person to perceive that his work is as valuable as that of a person working in the city. That is a very important point. The other thing is for them to be able to have the commodities they would have in the city. Right now, let’s say, connectivity is very important, of course. But in this case, connectivity, we already have it and it is really good. In the case of my soon, by being connected and being closed to the city, is sufficient.

**Talking a little about health, how is your physical condition? Do you have any limitation or any problem related to the…**

To work?

**To work.**

No. No, no. My health is very good. I do have health ups and downs but I think that our health is benefited by the conditions we live in. Take into account that I don’t do the harsh activities, let’s call them like that, in farming which are the ones that might cause a significant wear down. Regarding the roaster there is smoke and dust generation but in general terms, my health is very good and it has never been impacted by what I do. On the opposite.

**You mentioned earlier that you have a family vegetable garden. That is a personal garden. Well, not personal but for the family…**

It is a family garden.

**Tell us a little about that garden.**

Well, that garden is something where my mom, an aunt and myself meet and it works as therapy. It serves us as a family activity to meet and sow, and to have some organic products. So that we know we are consuming very healthy products. And where, on top of that, we have planted some stuff related to aromatic products. We have a lot of aromatic herbs. We like that a lot. And, going deeper in the field of natural medicine, my aunt is a doctor and she is in a group known as the *yerbateras* and then she started to look a little into what is behind each plant. And we do like it a lot, we like aromatic herbs and consuming them as medicine, right?

**Ok. And regarding the garden itself, does it provide you all of your diet or…**

No, no, no. We still have to buy the majority in the supermarket. They are few… We only produce a few, like some lettuces, we get onions, we get all sort of condiments. We do get that form there. But there is still a lot more work to be done in the garden.

**About the neighboring community, do you have a good relationship with your neighbors?**

Yes, in general terms we do know the vast majority of our neighbors and the relationship is civic. It is civic. We do know each other and although the relationship is not super close we know each other and we help each other. Yes.

**In that community… Oh well, you already mentioned it… *Bless you!* He was sneezing. Oh, right. Do you feel that the conditions are fair for all of the neighbors in the zone?**

Well, in that area there is some unfairness. Let’s say there are some stablished plots and there are some other settlements that have formed in a, let’s say, irregular way. Of course, the conditions for the people that has settled there are not as nice. They have the aqueduct, they have energy, they have all the basic but, of course, when you go and see their housing, they are lower quality housing, without being bad, just the basics.

**Do you feel that those settlements, which at the beginning might be irregular, could generate conflict in the sector?**

Man… Yes, sadly, the economic conditions of a lot of people push them to take some hard paths, right? So, a lot of the conflicts that generate here come from, let’s say, two or three houses, where they have had economic problems and they appeal towards other type of activities, right? So they do cause some sort of conflicts. But we live in peace, somehow.

**Ok. Now we go as such into the big project itself. It is called Biohubs. Let me tell you about the big project. Siban and Susan, as I mentioned, two PhD students working with clean shipping, which is their microproject, are developing a proposal known as Biohubs. It is a win-win where the local communities, and we are talking about local communities in Risaralda, Quindio, Caldas, and the north of the valley, are linked with biofuels producers and crude transformers. We will understand, within their project, this green area as the different producers of cocoa and coffee, and as you mentioned earlier, without forgetting that there are other plantations that generate a lot of residues or have a lot of residues, such as banana. Initially it is cocoa and coffee. And this is the protagonist point. A biorefinery, which by means of a process called thermos-liquefaction… thermo-liquefaction?**

**(Siban) Yeah, hydrothermal liquefaction.**

**Hydrothermal liquefaction. I’ll explain. It is a process in which the biomass is deposited into a container and is exposed to (high) temperature and pression and, from that biomass, 4 elements are generated. Gas, carbon, water, and crude. This process requires of water. It is a sort of wet pyrolysis. It is a wet pyrolysis and as such it requires of water. So, the water produced in that process is reused. The gas, which is energy. The carbon can be used for soil improvement, energy generation or water treatment. And the crude, which is the main protagonist, will continue in the chain towards a crude biorefinery for its further transformation into biofuels, specifically for the maritime industry. It can be understood as the organic residues, even the trimming residues… well, even this, but it would require of a very clean process because the biomass is needed clean. Meaning there would be no place for plastics, there would be no place for any sort of these residues but only organic biomass. This would impact on the regional development. Employment, academic development, development… To reduce the distance between producer and final consumer, meaning improvements for the community, like I mentioned before. This is the project they are investigating and the proposal they are aiming for. Now, regarding to this specific one, the question is, how much residue is being produced here in the plot, in the three hectares. Do you have that data?**

It is hard to calculate. Let’s say, we could generate, in peels… We could calculate more or less how much peels… But that would be a hard tell because we also thresh other people’s coffee, right? Let’s say, right now, I would say, we are producing around… Let me tell you… If you give me a moment, I’ll do the calculation of how much peels are generated per @ and from *pergamino coffee.* Let’s say they are…

**You haven’t had cocoa residues yet, right?**

We have had very little from cocoa. Very little. But I could also make a calculation for cocoa. They are 20 000… those 20 000… Well… that would be 5 000… And in peels we are generating each mount around… We are generating more or less… 20%... one ton… We are producing more or less a ton… That means 200 kilos. We are more or less producing around 7 000 kilos a year. We are talking about peel and pulp.

**7 tons a year? Cool.**

The mucilage is hard to calculate but…

**What do you currently do with those residues?**

Well, the coffee pulp we decompose it with compost, it takes more or less 3 months, and is put back into the soil. The peels from the roasting process are also decomposed and goes back into the soil or, currently, I’m also selling the peels.

**That connects it to the next question and it is, would you be willing to collect and sell these residues?**

Yes, of course I would. Yes.

**What would be the most complex issue for collecting these residues? The challenges.**

The challenges? I would think it is the recollection time. Obviously, to store it. If it is a very long recollection time, it becomes wasteful, right? But other than that, no, none. Here we would be able to collect those residues. There would be a competition with my composting, right? Since I require compost for my plants and since I want to move, to put it somehow, towards, making compost, then there would be a competition and we would then have to look into the amount being produced.

**Ok, this is done. Regarding… regarding this project, do you think that the associations, cooperatives, the federation, all of the farmers guilds, would be willing to participate in a project like this one?**

I think so. I think that for the federation, for fedecacao and for all of them, a project like this would be very interesting to participate in. Also for roaster it might also be very interesting. They produce aa lot of residues and, in a way, you provide a solution to that struggle, right?

**What would be the challenges to achieve a project like this one?**

What are the challenges I believe there might be? (To someone else) Ok, we will receive it. It is ok. It is a little. Done. (Back to interview) Let’s see… I don’t know. I would think that maybe, the competition with regular fuels must be a complex topic, right? (To someone else) Yes, thank you. Ok, let’s go for this one. (Back to interview) Let’s see, what else… Of course, transport here is easy but I believe that the transport in areas further away must be harder and expensive. The topic of transport. I don’t know.

**How could a project like this one improves your capabilities in the plot? Or how could it support you? How could it help you grow?**

I don’t know if there is an economic retribution… For us, all of this is a by-product, right? We had never through this could have a value. Of course, if it has a value, for a lot of people it could be interesting. But it doesn’t have major relevance. For me, the real value of this would be the contribution to the environment, right? The contribution to be able to generate alternative energy. I think that would be the main satisfaction but I don’t think everyone might see it the same way.

**Is there anything you would like to add regarding projects like this one?**

I don’t know, I think it might be interesting to link all of this to the carbon footprint topic, right? Because it is a very popular topic and it is how much contamination do coffee growers produce and how much oxygen we are producing simultaneously. In my opinion, it would be very interesting for each coffee farmer to feel proud helping the environment and not causing a harm. If it had that impact and on top, let’s say, it was somehow related to the oxygen issue, I don’t know how to link it, but it would be something interesting.

**Now, to finish, there is this small activity where we will find… I will hand you some cards. These cards are related to you and your environment and you have to place them according if they have major or minor relevance. According to how you see them. In that sense, you will tell us why it is more or less important.**

Give me one moment to go and pay them.

**Ok, ok.**

Done. Mobility. Unintelligible on mobility, here where I am?

**Yes, yes.**

Let me explain why. Ok, it is about how I feel, on how my mobility is. Ok, my mobility is very good. We are 20 minutes away from Pereida’s center, 25 minutes away from Quebrada’s center, 25 minutes from the main airport. We are 1 hour from two main cities. The infrastructure is really good at the municipal level. And the regional ways, at least around here, is pavemented. And if I want to go to another town, despite them being dirt roads, I can still access them with a camper or with a truck, without any issue. On the topic of mobility, it is also easy to move in bicycle, despite the traffic in Colombia being complex, you could move by bicycle. I don’t feel to safe doing that. Done. On safety…

**Here, your family context is included.**

Ok. Well… Safety I would place it lower. Obviously, there are particular issues in our society. Sadly, we have to talk about drugs and the influence these issues have. You could say they hurt safety. But compared to other cities and countries I’ve been to, we can calmy go out in our city, without any issue, without anything happening to us. Here, there might be some issues but I believe they happen everywhere. Therefore, in terms of safety, I feel good. It could be better but I feel good.

**Let me remind you it is about the importance level for you and your…**

The importance level is… Well, for me it is very important. Safety, for me, is… It is more about the importance level rather than how I feel about it?

**Yes, yes. Importance level.**

Ok, safety, for me, could be… We have obviously had hard times in Colombia, which has been times when it was hard and if we were to go back to those moments it would be a delicate issue and it would totally change my life. It is completely important.

Physical health. The importance of all of them will be high. Yeah, it too. The topic of physical health is very important. For me to feel good. Luckily, I think that these cities favor physical health. People have the opportunity to walk, there are very good medical infrastructure. I think the CPS works perfectly. Ambulances can reach all the way here. In case there is an accident the medical services can reach. It is very important and I feel good about it.

To take care of the environment. Let’s see. For me, this is a very important topic although I know that for the conditions… We are no in conditions that take too much care of it. Therefore we are… For me it is a very important topic and I know it impacts in my son’s future, for me to take care of the environment. But the conditions, don’t take too good care of the environment and, in Colombia, we are not particularly aware about taking care of the environment.

A satisfactory work. In my case, it is important, it is very relevant to be working in something I like. Specially in this point of my life, for me it is important to work on what I want and now on what I have to. I think it is very important although mobility and safety are higher. Yes.

Public participation. Well, here we are getting into an area that might… Public participation was an area we were not very involved. I think we used to leave that to other people and we used to say that politics were not for us. But currently, I started to get more involved in public participation and now I take part of some boards, on some topics where I think it is important to be involved in the decisions making at the local level. Yesterday, we were in the Quebradas’ board. That is a topic that started to gain importance although for me it used to be something that was non-important. We were working at the particular level and never at the community or public level.

Leisure and entertainment. Leisure and entertainment are very important for us. We always play in our family gatherings and we are always playing with my son. So I think it is important, leisure, and we do sports, we ride the bike. It is very important.

Social relationships. Well… It is an important issue. For us it is more about the family ones rather than the social ones. I do have a group of friends, although it is not a large group of friends. So I place it at that importance level. I think I have good friends but not many friends.

Housing. Well, this is an important topic. I like big, comfortable spaces, where I have nature. Where I can feel warm, so that I won’t feel cold. Somewhere I don’t have leaks. Therefore, housing is very important. I’m not looking for anything luxurious but comfortable and homey.

Self-determination. I could ask for…

**An explanation?**

For an explanation.

**(To Siban) He wants and explanation.**

**(Siban) On that? It is just that if he wants to do something, he doesn’t… Nobody tells him. How important is his self-motivation? Is it really important for him to depend on himself or is he depending on others?**

**That if you want to do something, you have that self-motivation and if it is important or if you need of someone else’s company that tells you what to do?**

No, in fact, I think we have a lot of determination. It is something I learned from my dad and things… He say’s “Not long after you start doing something you’ll be done with it”. Actually, a lot of the wood work here, we do it ourselves. And we have initiative. Therefore, I think that it is very important for me and it is something I promote to my child, for him to be proactive.

Nutrition. Right now it is a very important thing. Although, often, I look more into the personal satisfaction rather that into the nutrients. For me, food is a pleasure more than something about nutrition. But it has change through the last years because we have come to realize that some of the food, we were consuming was not actually food but some of the additives I had were… well, they weren’t nutritive.

Mental health. Well, mental health is a very important topic. It is a very important topic because, as a family, we know we have some mental health issues where we knew that if we don’t take care of our mental health we could go towards depression and that sort of things. So, for me, let’s say, mental health is something vital. To feel good, to get up and be grateful, to be happy with what I do. For me it is something very important because, without mental health, I can’t enjoy other things. Done.

Education and knowledge. It is a very, very interesting thing but, sadly, I should invest more time to it. More time to education and knowledge. I would like to give more time to education and knowledge. I’m not the best reader nor the most studied but I like it. I would like to have more of that in my life. That is why I put it at the middle.

**Here we have some empty cards. Maybe you would like to add something that you consider very important or not so important and so they are for you to use them. If you need them.**

It is not that they are not supposed to have nothing here but for me, in case I see something…

**If you see something that is missing or, maybe, I don’t know, that might be important to add, there is an opportunity to do so.**

No, I would change one of this for one of these. Let’s see… in leisure there is traveling, right?

**Yes, yes.**

For me it is very important to travel. No, no, no. There I see… I can’t really think of anything. For sure there must be some missing but… I don’t know. Maybe… Well, that would be in public participation… The way I see it, we lack a lot of civic culture, in Colombia. We lack a lot of civic culture and I think that it is something that I realize I’ve been lacking lately. I don’t know how I would put it, civic culture. And it is a topic that I somehow envy from more developed countries, right? I am missing this, civic culture. And it is because I fight a lot when I go to the city, when I drive, and that causes me stress, to go to the city. Because people don’t cross through the zebra paths, and they are missing that. Civic culture. Civism. The fact of throwing trash where you have to. I don’t know. That would be the only thing I would add.

**(Siban) I have some questions. Ok, a question. Three questions. First, how does he see the relationship between them. Does he see that if these are attained these would be taken care of themselves and later comes the society. So, is that how he sees the connection between them?**

**Is there a specific connection between these hierarchic activities, meaning between these and these in terms of relevance, or is it… I mean, do these have different importance because these ones are high or…**

No, I think that through the realization of the activity I placed the ones I though the most relevant for me. Although, for example, right now I would place mobility lower.

**You can lower it.**

I would lower it but… but…

**(Siban) Why did he move this?**

**Why? Why would you lower it? Why did you lower it?**

Why did I lower it? Because, for me… Right now I’m not really using mobility and therefore it doesn’t impact me that much. If there was a mobility issue with the paths, I wouldn’t really have an issue. Right now, we have very good infrastructure but if there was to be an issue, it wouldn’t really be an issue for me because I live in the countryside. But I had to move to the city… For sure, it is very important for my son, for him to go to school. But in my case, it is not since I only go to the city once a week. Due to my lifestyle, it has lost importance.

**(Siban) unintelligible. So he has to choose for him.**

**But, I mean, for the kid, because he has to go to the school. But not for him because he just stays in the farms and goes to the city only once a week. It is not that important.**

**(Siban) Ok. My second question is, he is well educated, because he was talking about economic… stocks and those things. But he placed the education here. My question is why? Why at last? Because he thinks it has already been brought to everybody? He has easy access? Or, he thinks it is not necessary? Compared to others.**

**An answer from himself, he is not the most read guy or researched guy but…**

**(Siban) yeah, yeah. For him? This is…**

**Yeah, yeah, for him. But maybe I could ask if it is for access or…**

**(Siban) Yeah, yeah. Like, why… Ok, my question here is why these are here? What challenge is there to obtain these, currently? Is it access, is it non-existing, is it… why are they the least…**

**Ok, first, there is a question related to education and it is, when you were mentioning the roasting process, you were talking properly about the topics, meaning that you can see the education you’ve had, you already said you are a veterinarian, but then you place education here because it is easy to access to it or why? The same goes to social participation and public participation. There is a proper channel missing in order to reach them? Or they are not that important?**

Ok. In my particular case, education and knowledge is because I’m lacking time and discipline. There is access, and I think it is free access, to the education and knowledge I would like to have. The thing missing is discipline, a… Yes, to have study discipline and time. Because you either work or study, right? Regarding social relationships. Social relationships are… the most important ones for me are the family ones. Ok? Of course, I have very good friends but, let’s say, they are not the daily, right? They are important to me but more at the family level rather than friends. And the public participation, for me is something new. It is a need that appeared only recently. Before I had the impression that it was not needed. That whatever I could do didn’t have much relevance in others daily life. Now I realized that I can do small changes that could help on the everyday.

**(Siban) So, he said discipline, right? It is important for him. And where does he place this?**

Discipline.

**Yes. Where would you place it? Considering what you said.**

The thing is, it is something I would like to have but I’m lacking.

**(To Siban) “I want discipline. I want more discipline”**

**(Siban) So, for him discipline is important…**

Yes, yes. But I don’t have it.

**(To Siban) “But I don’t have it”**

**(Siban) That doesn’t matter, no. It is not about what he has or not. It is what he feels is important. What he thinks is important, you know? Ok, ok. Ok. So, this is… I think he started with access, right? When he was talking about his preference. So, here… Now, I have broad questions for biohub. He already has a plan to use residues as bio-compost. So, would he have… Would he be willing to participate in this kind of…**

**(To Siban) He already answered.**

**(Siban) Oh, he already answered. Ok. He belongs to associations?**

**(To Siban) Yeah.**

**(Siban) Why?**

**Ok. Why do you belong to associations? To the fedecafé and to…**

To Asocafé Manantial…

**To Asocafé Manantial.**

Well, precisely, to have public participation and for everyone to get benefits from knowledge. From knowledge… To share knowledge with everyone. To know… Also to sell our coffee. To have it easy to sell our coffee. Why else? No, there are too many benefits. The association has too many benefits. To have access to technology. Yes, there are some economic benefits but that is not what drives us. Although there are economic benefits. Yes. It is more about access to information and technology.

**(Siban) Now this is my final question. Last question. So, now, he has… he thinks… he feels happy and he has everything. For 10 years, 20 years from now, if he has room for improvement, what does he think are the changes to be made in the future. Like the future. Ask him to imagine and then say. What he still needs to… Think “I would be better if I had this. I would work in this for the next coming years”, you know?**

**Ok. Thinkin in the future… (To Siban) How many years?**

**(Siban) 10, 20.**

**10, 20 years in the future, what would you consider you have to do to be able to continue like this. Or what could happen in 10, 20 years that would be relevant and could cause a change for you continuing? Or if you see yourself in 10, 20 years doing this.**

I see myself in 10, 20 years and I see myself retiring from this activity. And that is what I would like to do. To be in the agro(-field), to do tourism, to be involved in coffee. That is what I would like to be doing in the future, let’s say. Here we have strong pressure from the city and, of course, it is a complex issue. The city is expanding and that is something that can be complex for us. It could be complex, regarding the country’s safety. That would be the only thing pushing me away from being here and if suddenly, on the economic aspect, it could no longer sustain my family. But other than that, I would like to stay here even if the economic benefits wouldn’t be that high. For me, the benefits are higher than the economic benefits I could be missing if I was somewhere else, right? I’ve been tempted often to leave the country but I realize that I wouldn’t have these benefits elsewhere. I don’t know.

**(Siban) One last last-question.**

Ok!

**(Siban) When other farmers are actually doing normal production, how did you learn this multi-cropping, bio-composting, you know? Yeah, like, how did you learn this? Yeah, also your wife told us about traceability and everything. That is not a common word which I hear from farmers so, how did you get this much information? How did he get educated himself in this kind of things? Economics, drying curves… Ok, drying curves I understand but traceability and multi-cropping and this kind of things.**

**Ok. Compared to other producers, how did you get to the multiple crops, to share the land with coffee, cocoa, banana; to phase trimming… How did you achieve this knowledge and how have you been evolving around this knowledge?**

Well… That… There is a different topic in our production and it is about our production being a… Let’s say, it doesn’t have economic pressure since it has been exchanged with selling our coffee to better prices and because we also receive tourists. Therefore we can make some decisions that the rest of coffee farmers can’t make. Like sowing less coffee, having more shadow coffee, having other products such as cocoa, which won’t be profitable but can be something pretty, having a more conscious handling of waste. We can do that because we don’t have economic pressure. Because we had replaced it with this other income. Ok? And as the years have gone through, in this labor, we have seen that a lot of people come here and fall in love with the crops… Although rather than falling for the crops they fall for the richness that there is in the plot. In the amount of trees. And for us, that is more satisfactory than having a measure of a lot of kilos in a year. Ok? That’s why this is a particular case which I don’t believe everyone can do. And maybe they can do it within their own limitations. With their crops, with whatever they are growing, to be sold at a better price and for that to replace the amount of kilos. Right? Ok?

**(To Siban) Unintelligible**

**(Siban) Yeah. Yes.**

**That was the end. First, thank you for your time, for your availability, for the space, the answer and, of course, for the coffee and we would like to invite you on the 28th of July. There will be a workshop and this workshop will be the meeting with all of the people that they have talked with. Producers, local government, associations, in order to, somehow, reduce the distance there is between actors or for other actors to identify that… for the local government to identify what the producer is after. Well, they already know something but for them to work together. In addition to this, they will present the main project and you are invited. Diana… I think that Diana…**

She will send the invitation?

**Yes.**

Is it at the UTP?

**Yes, it is at the UTP and it is on the 28th of July.**

On the 28th of July, perfect. I’ll be there.

**And, finally, what Biohubs, Siban and Susan’s project, is after are coffee grounds, the coffee pulp, the membranes, the shells, the cocoa peels and the coffee peels. For it to get into a biorefinery where these four products come out. There, gas and water are reused here and we are left with carbon and the main protagonist, the crude. This is used for energy, soil improvement or water treatment and the crude, with the main intention of using and working with this crude to produce biofuels for the maritime industry or for the air industry. Although that is not the only path. It can also be used to make biopolymers, bioplastics, biofilms, for bio-packaging. And if it wasn’t the case, you could always make adhesives, cosmetics, paint, tires, plastic, textiles… It is very broad. This biocrude is… It would replace the fossil crude. The goal of using the biomass to make biocrude is to replace the fossil crude. That is the project from Susan and…**

That is very cool. I didn’t know that was possible. Is it possible?

**It is possible.**

And, for example, a very interesting topic that impacts us a lot are fertilizers. One of the main items that is hitting production in a hard way are fertilizers. Right now, during the war times in Ukraine, we went from buying fertilizers for 60 000 pesos to 220 000 pesos, in a timespan of 2 years. Only 2 years. And Colombia has a need for producing fertilizers. In this area, I think that the National Coffee Farmer’s Federation would be really interested because one of the projects being presented through one of our representatives is… We have a factory that is the Monomeros Venezolanos but it can’t cover all of the Colombian needs. Therefore, one of the projects is how to cover the local fertilizers demand. I think that some good allies would be the Federation, because there is a particular interest in producing our own fertilizers, without depending on other countries. Nor on the dollar price or many other external factors. But for it to be ours. One of the proposals is for those fertilizers to be produced here, at the coffee axis, or in Tolima, or in Antioquia, or in the Huila. Areas with high coffee production, being the ones with the high fertilizers demand. Ok? There would be a good connecting area. And nothing else, just to congratulate you. If this is possible, because one, from ignorance, can’t imagine how you could produce petroleum if that is only produced after thousands and thousands of years. Hopefully it can be made and allow to avoid all of the harm on the earth, caused by the extraction of those fossil fuels. Right?

**(To Siban) Unintelligible**

**(Siban) True.**

Very good. I hope it comes soon.

**Thank you so much.**

Thank to you. Iba. Iba?

**Siban.**

Daniel.

**It was a pleasure.**