**CF3 - Interview farmers association Ovitoto - 9-2-2023**

**Could you give a little introduction of yourself? You are a full-time farmer and very active member of the association?**

Yes I am a ##[0.25] farmer from childhood. Even my parents were farmers. So I have farmed the whole years except maybe the years I went to school. Then i came back and started again.

**And you said you have cattle and also small stock?**

Yes

**And how many cattle do you have?**

Cattle 35 and 23 goats.

**And do you live nearby here? In this?**

Yeah, it's four kilos from here, the next place.

**And with how many people do you live here?**

##[01:18]

The place name is ##[01:22] Oshigambo.

**Oshigambo? Oshigambo is where we came from.**

and I'm staying with five people.

**Five people?**

Yeah.

**And those are your children?**

Yeah, only one child. The others is already out of the house. Some of them are married.

**And you said you went to school as a child?**

Yeah.

**How many years did you go to school?**

I don't know, but I only made which they used to call it standard eight. Maybe they call it the grade ten. Oh, yeah. I didn't finish grade twelve.

**How old were you when you started farming? Like after school?**

Yeah, before I went to school, then I started farming because it's a culture of the hero people. Every child is born there. You're going to be a farmer before you go to school. Six years old, seven years old. You look after the goats and so on, and then you go to school. If it is a boarding school, then you are there and when it's holiday and you came back doing the same job. And when you go to high school, it's the moment you leave the house, then you may go to Windhoek or something like that. And I only stayed three years in Winhoek, high school, and then I left school and came back.

**To work here as a farmer?**

Yeah. And most of the time I was a farmer with my mother because my father passed on a little bit earlier when I was in school. And my mother passed on in 2000. That is the moment when I started now to be alone with this family.

**And did you then inherit the cattle?**

Yeah, we were 13 children. Big family. Everybody inherited three to four cattle and goats, and the others, they took and they went to the other places they were they farming. and I'm staying down there with my younger brother. Yeah. So we are farming now there with both of us.

**How many children do you have?**

Five children.

**You don't want 13?**

No. That's expensive.

**And what is your role in the association? So you said you're a chief organizer.**

Yeah, I have to organize everything, like the auctions. if we want to sell the cattle, then I organize them, look for the buyers, look for the price, maybe go to two or three buyers, and the one who got the higher price, that's the one you take. And the other things is like, if something wrong if something is wrong here, then I have to tell my executive members so that maybe they can release the money so that we can fix the things. Organizing the meetings and so on. Basically everything is organized in organizing.

**and what are the challenges here for you as a farmer?**

The challenges is normal. It's when we have, right now we don't have enough buyers. Yeah. The buyers is very limited. Sometimes we've got drought. So if the farmers have drought, then the association the association must do something. They cannot be quiet.

**What does the association do during drought? What does the farmers association do during drought?**

maybe to look after ##[07:19] gracing in other places. If maybe you got a farm which maybe they can rent, then you can take some of the farmers who can afford to those farmers.

**so buyers and droughts are challenges. What are other things?**

For the buyers during the drought, for them, it's good because animals is cheaper than the other time.

**And in your house, do you have electricity and water kind of things?**

Yeah

**And are you also affected by the bush?**

very much.the bush encroachment. Bush encroachment, yeah, bush encroachment is needed. Yeah, we need it very much.

**because why?**

The grass must grow, that's only ##[08:59] poachers. So we need to get the bushes out so that grass can become.

**and we heard that there were some projects about making feed from the bush. Are you also involved in that project?**

Yeah, but it didn't happen, like. I think we only started. We just started. It does not materialize as such.

**And do you know why that didn't?**

I think the government don't have money.

**And while we are investigating a technology or project to harvest or to get out the bush and make woodchips here in the communities and then from those woodchips make a diesel, like a fuel out of that. Yeah. So what do you think of that idea?**

Its a good idea.

**would that be something that you would want to participate in?**

very much. Because even the community we have been meetings about that position. We wanted that if we can have money of somebody to help us.

**If you can, how will you harvest the bush? manually, mechanically? Do you use any equipment for harvesting the bush or do you chop it down with axe?**

It's only the axes. We don't have equipment.

**And what do you think could be a challenge or a difficulty if you want to do that here in this?**

because I'm not sure what exactly must be done in that in that area, because we are not familiar with that. Maybe you can tell us what must be done and so on.

**so we are also still finding out. It's really a research project, so we don't know yet.**

Maybe you can look after people who can taught us the whole thing.

**Yeah, that's needed. because do people do like bush control here or not really?**

Not really.

**And why not?**

Do you think maybe Dove can help me? Why not?

Yes. The reason is simple. We do have policies. We fall under conservancy. We don't have a community forest forum here. We more on the conservancy forum. So once it's related to the bush encrochment, deforestating and whatever you are doing there, it's related to certain permissions. That's why things here, as my colleague has said earlier, that the project was piloted through the land range program, but it lapsed for a reason being that it did not sustain because it was not properly manageable. They were just piloted. It started, it wanted to start and it was not owned by the community. So something that need to be owned by the community. So if the community gets involved in the long run, it will be much sustainable and it will benefit the community. But to pilot and for a certain person, just to benefit as a solely person, it will automatically lapse.

**##[13:29] Community forest.**

Yeah, we should. Within what we need is what we can recommend is that within the conservancy program or maybe within the structure of the association, farmer association, there should be a desk for the community, for the community to have a structure, to have their own guidelines and policies for such project, for even for these type of projects to be sustainable and to have a beneficiary in the long run. Otherwise you will be guided and prevented by the policies that say no. You are allowed to DeForest on a certain period, you are not allowed to touch whatever the tree, you are not allowed to cut whatever you know, those are the things that need to be addressed. Otherwise we will end up being limited to the access. Also, under the traditional authority here, you cannot do anything you want. They must give you permission.

**Yeah. Okay. And do you think that the Farmers association can play a role?**

Yeah, that is one of the policy and the responsibility within our policy that we need to engage the farmers with the projects that benefits the farmer. That is one of the policy. The objective of the farmers, at least, if there is something that can benefit the community in the long run, should be welcomed even by potential donors or by outsiders, whatever it can, even from the government institution or the plastic should be welcome. And we should play a very big role so that we can make sure that really this problem can be addressed, this project can sustain for a certain period of time.

**Yeah. Because the association was involved in this pilot the Bush to feed project?**

Yeah, we were involved. It's only that we were involved because franchise stakeholder, so we were not part of the planning. Okay. If you start with the planning together, you came up with a project and we planned together, so we know where the hiccups and they don'ts and whatever. So at the end of the day, we'll be part of it. But if you come up with the implementation and you want me to come and implement things which I not planned.

**for sustainable project basically, the community must involve?**

the stakeholders. the conservancies, the community forest, all the stakeholders, the traditional authorities, the regional councilors, the farmers of a region, plus the union, should play a very big role for the sustainability of the project which is being piloted, being implemented. In the community also as well at large. They should feel responsible.

**And when you set up a community project, the benefits should be shared by all. And how do you normally organize?**

No, the benefit equally. Not equally per se, because we don't have the same demand. But actually the advantages in balancing the percentage, the community should benefit more. because you have another social responsibility like as I have said, we have a school in our ##[17:39], we have a school here in ##[17:41]. So once you're having this type of project and we see that it's sustainable and it's more profitable, give access to whatever, you can help, where you can help. We are facing the challenges of firefighting here. The fire outbreaks, we lose other. the type of the things that we know, if things are sustaining then we can donor, we can help out. Really we are having a problem of theft here, animal theft. We have the, ##[18:16] program here. So if really things are, this type of project are sustaining, then we can also see to it that no, the management within that structure, within that project, they will see to it that no, really let's give this institution, let's give this division, where the natives because it's more on community benefits. Because if the fire is out breaking, then it's going through, it's killing. So that is basically my contribution to.

**And do you think it would be better for the community if the rangeland was restored?**

Yeah. If you DeForest, if you bush the area, you create job, it's only that you need to have formulas and plans, a proper planning. But how will you debush and what are the measurements, what are the procedures, how will you accommodate, how will it benefit the people? What are your plans, the action plans, all these type of, what are the strategies that you are going to use? Those are the type of things that need to be planned before. planning should be very proper.That's why things are not lapsing because there is no proper planning. But really it will help a lot of because it will create work. People will sell woods around here, it will give access to the land also to grow grass. It will bring a lot of potential things but it will depend how you are going to operate it and who is going to operate it and how long will it operate and where is your target area, are you going to do it in phases or how you control it? And the other thing is also the donors, where would you get the money in terms of the equipment and material?

**But before that can be done, the community needs to become a community forest ?**

yeah even there should be a desk within the structure.

**So is the community looking at becoming community forest or they need some outside?**

No, the community forest will be very helpful because it's a policy within the structure of the government. So you will engage the ministry of the forestry, agriculture, then you talk to them. So there is a guideline.

**and are you now in this process to become a community forest here?**

No, we are not in the process because weare more limited when they come to the forest. We have a boundary where we should not cross because of the community conservancy. So the conservancy, it's more in advantage once it comes to the forest rather than us as the farmers association. We are basically more on the farmers because they are hitting the animals to the field.That's all. We are dealing with farmers-related house hold farming, farming crops but once it comes to deep side of, you need to have a license to DeForest. Even if you want to take some woods to Windhoek or to ##[22:11], you have to have permit from the office in Ovania.

**Permit a problem to get or?**

it's not a problem to get a problem, but it's limited because of the policy. you don't go out and you cut every tree that you feel that it's in your camp or in your area where you cut the way you want. They will cushion some of the trees. You must not touch them, but it's good. We really conclude that prop check will be very helpful because you DeForest everywhere ##[22:55]. Because even if you, people are hating animals from their places, they have various places to a ##[23:02] here for payment. They are footing. They are running under the animals. The things are running. They are very dirty. Things are running out. People are not Caring.They are calling because really we wanted to bring one, but it ran away. I cannot manage to go and get it. You see, those are the things that will be a thing of the past if these type of projects are coming in.

**This village has electricity, water?**

most of the villages and also if you give push as we have related already, that no, it will also create a platform for the farmers to have animal fittings. because they will be busy even to one sector somewhere there you create a section there that said no way animals or animal supplementary fittings are being done. What type of fittings are doing? People who will buy at the affordable price because it's produced here. Yeah.

**Do you think there's enough people who want to go and cut the bush because it's such hard work?**

Yeah, it's a hard labor. The more it's hard labor, the more it create job.

**Do people want to do the hard labor? That's the question.**

Yeah, hard labor depends on the scale of the salary. Because if you don't have work, at the end of the day, you will end up having a hard labor. But at least at the end of the day you get something. But it will help the young ones to get out of the bar because it's always busy. It's a project which is operational on a daily basis. People will be busy.

**People who are not working, are they in the bar? What are they doing over there?**

Because of the rate of funding. The button is what I said is no way. People get frustrated. So you end up being in a bar. Meeting someone, a young person at the age of 20. By this time around, it's almost now 11:00. already drunk. It will happen tomorrow. What does it say to you? You know what will happen tomorrow? Hangover, again drunk. The more you are drinking here and then you are not enjoyed. You will see such a cattle and everything will 10,000. You know the range of that one is almost 10,000. Yeah, but if he stole it, he would sell it to 1001. The easy way you getting things in, get money. But I think that really you will have a positive response in a ##[26:31] in terms of trying to research the problem will be the know, how will it be operated, how will it be sustainable? What are the beneficiaries? How will they get involved in community engagement?

**Yeah. Okay, well, thank you very much. I think that those were our questions. I don't know if you have questions for us or want to tell it's now.**

The first communal place to come in the city. Yeah.Stakeholders.The leadership associations. Yeah. They gather, so they got what they communicate up. Yeah, it was big. You managed to go through the mountains inside the village? Yes, around here, dealing with poultry projects. Small gatherings. And at least this area here is better because of the swell. It's better.It's not so rocky when someone now

what do you think? What will be the results of this research of yours?