**19-11-2021 English transcript farmer #21 - male - Jaen - 27**

The serious problem that we have here is Spain is that we haven’t known how to advertise the olive grove. We haven’t had… It has stayed within us, to put it in a way, but we haven’t been capable to advertise it. Maybe the Italians had gone ahead of us. They had been able to do a larger product propaganda, mainly. For us, that’s the problem we have and we should improve it. And maybe that’s the reason the young people had started to commercialize more the oil, understanding the olive grove a little bit more. And well, little by little.

**I’ll explain you a little what we want to do with this interview, because we want to understand the farmers perspective. Understanding how agricultures life goes here, for the farmers. We have questions about your work but also about your life and your well-being level. Therefore, we want to discuss different topics, which are also a little personal. So, if you don’t want to answer, there is no problem. To begin, you can present yourself for us.**

Well, my name is [name]. I’m known as [name], as [name] calls me. And well, I started, let’s say, in agriculture 3 years ago, more or less. 3 years ago, more or less. But what I originally did was studying music. Piano. Since I was 8 years old, I started in the conservatorium, and well, I realized my studies until I finished in 2018. The thing is, that when the time came to decide if I wanted to live out of that or continuing with the family business, from my parents. Then I decided to go towards the olive grove. Either way I like the entrepreneurship world. I like the adventure it involves. I don’t like the monotony in a continuous life, with a fixed schedule. That’s why… Here in Spain, more specifically in Jaen, we have the opportunity of having a world unique product, that has a very big value, well, then I preferred to potentialize it, making it known. After all, the oil that I had shown you, the Neove oil, is an olive that came from our fields, it came out just two years ago, it is new, but… but we have already presented it in a competition, that oil. And at the world level, in a competition which is the “*Guia Evooleum*”, we got the 11th world place. Then, let’s say, with a little of effort we’ve already accomplished big things. That’s maybe the motivation, the main motivation by which I want to keep going in, to keep in the farming world, to try to potentialize it, make it known and all of that. Well, continuing with my presentation it is more or less that. I studied piano and currently I’m in farming. I haven’t yet managed to get myself known, as such, because I’ve been around for a little time, but that’s my main goal. Little by little make myself known by the brand.

**And how old are you?**

27.

**27, ok. Then you’ve been working as a farmer for 3 years?**

Three years ago, I started to help my father. My father already has, I’m going to say it, 57 years and little by little he already needed help. He needed for someone to take care of the farm. Therefore, before leaving it at the hands of someone we don’t know, I decided to take it. Then I started with farming, only. Plot’s chores, maintenance, fertilizing, recollection. And it was two years ago, in 2020 more or less, when I decided to start producing the olive oil. Then let’s say, I take care of the two parts: the olive production, better said the olive oil, and the commercialization part, which is what I just started. It is true that it is not strong because I didn’t study that but, well, little by little with self-education I would like to keep on developing and growing. Doing events, networking, mostly, and that’s it. Making myself known.

**And the land is your father property or also…**

Yes, the land is my father’s property. Actually, my father, if I remember correctly is the third generation. His great-grandparents are the ones who first bought that plot and that plot was pretty large. And then the heirs would inherit the land… I don’t know if it will be heard because of the noise. Or if you want to try the sound, to check if it sounds ok or anything… Well, let’s say that my father is the third generation in that land. Let’s say that the land, when his great-grandparents bought it, there was not olive grove, it was fallow land, so back in the day mostly wheat and barley was planted in this region. But then, let’s say the grandkids, the children, of that first generation, were the ones who went on to cultivate olives. The olive grows well here in Jaen, I suppose because of the temperature, height and more, and then my father, great part of the olive grove that we own was planted by him. It is not until some years pass that you can get the potential from these trees. It obviously needs some minimum growth years to generate and average production.

**And how many hectares?**

We work 60 hectares. We are… from my father’s side there are three siblings and each sibling, well, let’s say the original plot, the original field were 180 hectares and from that division my father got 60. And my other two uncles got 60. So, 60, 60 and us 60. That’s our part.

**And why did you decide to go into farming?**

Me? My father?

**You.**

Those are more personal reasons. More of a personal challenge because, after all, what I saw regarding music, because my aim was to become a professor, getting a position or something related to being a professor. Then I saw some limitations to that. I think it was more of a standardized life. Getting subdue by a schedule. You can always grow, too. There are many options, you can get into an orchestra, you can do many things. But my aim was more towards teaching. That’s why I preferred to get into farming since I have the opportunity of having a plot, taking advantage of having a plot to get initiated in the entrepreneurship world, because the entrepreneurship world is more of an adventure. You don’t have that much stability, that is true, but then the results can be way more beautiful and way bigger. And I really think that, at least in Spain, more entrepreneurs are needed. I think that right now, the employment situation here in Spain, let’s say that the officials, the civil servant positions, are saturated. Then it is not easy to find stability being a professor, being a civil servant, or anything. Actually, I should take the moment to mention that my brother also studied music, he studied piano. He is 4 years older, but my brother decided not keep the land. He preferred to keep on with his music, with teaching, and he is working and preparing to continue with, well, if he manages to become… if he obtains his position as a professor and such. He is teaching in public schools, private ones too, and he is going on. But he didn’t want to get into the world of farming. It wasn’t attractive for him and it is also true that it has sacrifices. It has its good side, its bad side, and in my case, I wanted to explore that adventure. And after all it is like everything. It has its good and bad parts.

**And can you describe a day for us?**

A day? It is not easy because in farming… that’s why I like about farming because every day it is different. There is anything… there is no pattern. Let’s see, for example, I can describe a day in harvesting. Harvesting is, let’s say, the most important part of the year in our olive grove. During harvesting, well, the schedule we have here in winter, in order, of course to get natural light, we tend to start working around 9, in the morning. For example, comparing it with a summer day, it usually goes perfectly around 7 in the morning. Because of the change in light, with the schedule change, well, we adapt. Well, then, going back to the topic of harvesting, we start at 9 in the morning. Previously, my father and I are there an hour before, previously preparing the machinery, let’s say taking it out, lubricating it, leaving it on for a while so it gains temperature. Let’s remember that around this time we are already around one degree, two degree, of temperature, because it is more or less around December, when harvesting beings, when everyone begins harvesting. And, well, once the crew arrives, because we don’t harvest it alone, we need a crew which normally, well not normally, for us it usually is around ten people, aproximately. Then, what we do, is going to the *slash*, we call it here, to the starting zone, we go to do the harvesting and everyone has their role. For example, in my case, there is one person who is in charge of taking a machine that there is, called vibrator, that you surely already know, which is the one that holds the olive tree with some pliers, makes it vibrate and most of the olives fall to the ground. Other two or three people are in charge of hitting the olive tree with sticks to drop the remaining of the olives that the machine wasn’t able to drop. Other people are in charge of placing some cloths below each olive so that the olive falls without touching the ground, to avoid contamination and such. Other people are in charge, let’s say my father and I, of collecting olives from the ground and load it in the wagon. So, let’s say everyone has their role in the crew. And well, we continue with the work until approximately 4, 4:30 in the afternoon, of course with rests, which is when we basically transport those olives from the fields to the mill and, well, then what we do is to wait for its milling. It is true that the milling usually is done later but we do the olives reception. We spend there around thirty minutes, one hour, which is what it takes to deposit all of the olives we take there, into the mill. A conveyor takes it, weights it on the way and they tell you the amount of olives that you had taken there. They also give you an olive sample that you take to and analyse at a lab, where they will tell you the yield of that olive. Like that you know the amount of olives you got and the oil yield, which is the real amount of oil that each olive contains. And then basically the machinery, the tractors and such, are taken back to the warehouse, which is where we keep all the machinery, we lock it, we finish lubricating it, preparing it and, well, little more than that. At home, to enjoy a little, relaxing a little after the day. And, let’s say, that’s more of a standardized of the season, of the harvest season, which is when you do need to keep more of a routine. But we have approximately around 20, 25 years of harvesting, which are the harder season of the year, but the rest let’s say are less harsh.

**And what is it that you do to rest after a day?**

Well, a little of everything. Sometimes I stay at home because you don’t feel like doing anything else. Some other times I get the change to go out with friends, to go around. Of course, since the vast majority, here in Jaen, have land, do farming, we talk about our experiences that each of us had during the work day. Because it is true that, since you work with a lot of people and a lot of machinery, normally there tends to be any kind of mishaps. Any sort of fault in a tractor, any puncture… Anything that happens, like it or not it is entertaining to talk about the experiences that you have had. If you had a problem with worker, too. You know? And, well, we catch up. We talk about that stuff. Of course, we also talk about everything, not only about the olive grove because that would be annoying. But… But well, usually during the work week we don’t go out too much, at least myself and during the weekend, even if we are in the season, even if I’m harvesting, I usually go out. From me it is rare, rarely I stay late… I mean I usually don’t go out to party, especially when we are in harvesting. But well, that something personal. There are people who is capable of doing it. They’re capable of going out to party and start early with the harvesting. After all, it is a very physical work. And then we, the land owners, have the struggle that it is not only physical. We also have to organize very well how we have to do the workday because if there is a mistake or a job badly done, you lose a lot of time. And time, with so many people, is a lot of money. It depends too on how the prices are for the salary, for the social security, diesel and everything, we have to do it very precisely, let’s say, the job.

**And do you still play the piano or not?**

Yes. I play it but not professionally anymore. It is truth that with the piano, when I was at the harshest and hardest stage, it was perfectly five hours, how much I would play piano. Even more, previously to an exam it was daily rehearsing. Right now, not even as a joke. What I play piano for is to enjoy. Because after all, after so many years playing I have a high level in piano so I use it to enjoy, not to get too worked up with the piano. But who knows tomorrow, I would like to, if I manage to stabilize the farming and I manage that the work goes by itself, that it doesn’t require of my presence, I would like to dedicate more time to the piano. And I don’t know if tomorrow I can retake it in a professional way but well, right now I prefer to focus on this, on farming.

**And you’ve said that you live here in the city centre. How is life here? Who do you live with?**

I still live with my parents. It is true that right now I’m in the middle of purchasing and apartment to finally become independent. But truth is that I still live with my parents. Actually, my brother, with 30 years, still lives too… But right now, precisely, this year he is working in a Jaen’s town, in Baeza, and in order to not come and go every day, he is living in a renting apartment there. But my brother also lives with my parents. At least here, I don’t know outside of Spain, but here we have difficulties to be able to become independent. But well, at least from my side, I’m very happy with my parents. They help me with all the projects I have, including the olive grove and the oil too, since it is not easy to start. But well, the coexistence with them, in terms of that, is pretty good. Then, at the end my every day, I guess it is that of a normal person. Maybe big part of the day I focus it more towards talking, to the entrepreneurship world, and in some occasions, it is true that it could cause you some problems. Because large part of my friends doesn’t… they assume it? No… They don’t coexist much with entrepreneurship. Let’s say that agriculture is lived more intimately in the towns. In Jaen there are not that many farmers. In Jane there is more people that works in public serving. Then it is not easy to find, there is always some, but is not easy to find people that share, in my case, the same interests around farming. Then, large part of my friends prefers to talk about other things, for example now that series are trending, I don’t know, Game of Thrones and all these things, of the everyday, things on TV, but it is true that I tend to look more into farming talk, but not only farming but also entrepreneurship. And in that sense, I do find it more difficult to stablish a conversation with my friends. But well, at the end you spend time with them, you go out, you have drinks, do something. At night maybe a party or anything. But it is more or less a normal life. It is true that with the friends I have in towns, it is easier to talk about the olive grove. They share more experiences with you and, it is not that I am more comfortable, since each one has their strong features, each one talks about their own thing and you’re always learning but, in my specific case, I tend to be more comfortable with people, friends who live in towns.

**And where is the plot? It is then in another town.**

My plot is in Mengibar. Mengibar is approximately 30 kilometres away from Jaen. I usually do around 25 minutes trip, more or less, to go and another 25 minutes to come back.

**And do you have a house there too?**

There? No. It is true we have a small, yes, a small house but it is too old and you can’t inhabit it. Back in the day, my father’s grandparents used to live in that house that is exactly in the land but it is and old house, a house you have to fix entirely, so it is not worth it. We prefer the city. After all the country life… And, also, that house is isolated. Even though it is in Mengibar, it is 5… yes, between 5 or 10 minutes from the town or from the urban area. Then it is isolated. And, well, between the country side and the city, we prefer to live in the city. Actually, my parents, as I have mentioned before, my parents used to live in Villargordo, which is another town next to Mengibar. It is, let’s say… All of the towns are on the north of Jaen. Villargordo is approximately 20 minutes from Jaen, to the north, and Mengibar is another 5 minutes upwards, to the north. And my land is a little bit more above that. At the end it is all close to the main road, to the main highway we have here in Jaen, which is the A44, which is the one to Madrid. Actually, from the highway it is visible, the land, on the east zone. And not only because of that we have preferred to live here in Jane. We like more the city life.

**And do you feel safe here? Living and…**

Yes, I do feel safe but it is true that with the technology, at the end you are closer to the present, to the reality. At the end, Jaen is still a large town. Despite it is a city, it is relatively small. Therefore, when you visit Madrid, Malaga, Granada, because I studied outside, music in Granada; you see the potential of these cities and it is true that Jaen is a little behind in that sense. I don’t know if it is due to the political aspects or not, I won’t get into that topic, but it is true that, maybe tomorrow, if I’m able to, I’d like to live in another city that gives me more possibilities and that has more alternatives. Despite Jaen is a city with potential, it is not exploited and I think it will still take many years before it gets the strength it deserves at the end, Jaen. And regarding what I was mentioning earlier, with social media, each day young people have closer, for example, a city such as England, Paris, Germany, the United States of America; and when you extrapolate this to Jaen you realize that maybe there are many things that you are not living. Maybe that’s the reason why many towns in Spain are running out of inhabitants and I guess that also many towns from a big part of the world. Because maybe young people, when learning about these worlds through social media, they might want to move to other cities or to know other things, other experiences, at the end.

**And what is it that is missing, in your opinion, here in Jaen, that you would like from other cities?**

Well, look, what I see that could be missing here in Jaen is a little of diversity. After all, Spain’s capital, Madrid, has the luck to leave behind Spain by much. And it is true that there, everything you might look for, you’ll find everything. Here, a large part of things, for example technology, is always a little behind. We don’t have, precisely in Jaen, we don’t have many malls. It is true that now, a year ago, they started to stablish a new are in Jaen with different commercial areas. We don’t even have decent cinemas. The cinemas we have in Jaen are very small. We always have to go either to Granada or I believe that a town in Jaen, such as Linares which is a large town, also has large cinemas. Then, they are, man, not every day things but they are experiences that you can get in other cities, especially in terms of diversity. One of the things I like the most, and it surprises me that you are here, is to meet people from other countries. I think that is some richness that maybe in Jaen is not appreciated. One of the things that I miss, for example I have been studying English sometime by myself, and here it is very difficult to find people, there is people, but it is very hard to find people with whom you can practice and such. Some time ago, I think it was before covid, I spend a few days only in Madrid and within the people on the street you were able to find British people, you could practice. To ask the time, to ask where was any place in Madrid, a mall, anything. Then that diversity you find it everywhere, or at least in the most important cities, not only Madrid. In Granada too. So, all of that. Leisure areas are lacking, too, in Jaen. Let’s say, Jaen has two or three nice zones, but I think much more could be capitalized out of Jaen. And now I’ll take advantage to say that, because we also have a very nice area, because the castle zone, I don’t know if you have visited it, the Santa Catalina Castle, you’ve already visited it, right?

**The castle, yes, yes, yes.**

There is a zone in Jaen, known as Jaen’s canyons.

**Canyons?**

Jaen’s canyons which is sort of a geological fault from the mountain, where a river passes by, between the mountain, and there is a stones trail that you can walk on, and it is a beautiful area in Jaen. Actually, f I’m not mistaken we have thermal springs in Jaen, by the Jabalcuz area.

**Oh really?**

Of course. But those are things my parents got to know but I don’t know what happened that it was closed or there were problems and it was closed, whatever. So, I haven’t even got to know it. My parents knew it, saw it, but I haven’t had the opportunity because it is closed. It is not exploited. In fact, Jaen’s canyons, you can access them, but not in a legal way, let’s say. Let’s say it is closed and you can’t access it but there are areas you can jump over, to put it in some way. Then, there are very pretty small things, here in Jaen, that are not being taken advantage of. And, that’s the lack, let’s say, that Jaen has.

**And then, in the future, would you like to live in another town or city?**

I wouldn’t mind living in another city. Maybe Granada, maybe Malaga. They’re cities that allow me to be close to my business, to the olive grove, and they’re also cities that I think could give me more opportunities to meet people, more events and well, other perspectives, more distant ones, to put it in some way. Jaen, at the end, it is as you said, more of a town. Therefore, at least according to my experience, the entrepreneurship area is harder for me than if would go to other cities. I think there is a more open mentality that allows me to get to know new worlds. That’s why I would like to try it but, well, it is not in my plans right now. That would be for the future.

**And that type of energy sources do you use at home, is it like…**

The… Well, by energy you mean the topic of electricity, right? Or the topic of heating and all of that? In principle, we use only the energy… I mean the electric network, the normal electricity from the street. But it is true that we want to make a small study to see check if we can install solar panels. My brother, precisely, like a lot the topic of solar energy, solar panels, and his prototype, it is my brother’s, the ideal house prototype, is a house with solar panels, with batteries and an electric car. He loves the topic of… the solar energy world and being independent in that world. So, it is true that we live in an apartment, not a house therefore we don’t have the opportunity to do it but at least installing solar panels, that I would like to do. In the plot, we have a shed, which is where we store the machines, and we do have only two solar panels with a small battery that powers security cameras and, well, a small room we have there to keep our stuff, clothes and such, so we make it with the solar energy and that battery. But we would like to update it in the near future. Even to… The small house that we have… No, it is not even a house, the small room that we have in the shed, we would like to install a small fridge, to be able to take shower, to be able to heat water or whatever. And all of what would be with the solar panels, of course.

**And do you also use the olive trees wood for heating or…**

No, the olive trees wood we give it away. We trim the olive trees every two years and we give it away. It is true that people in the countryside do use the wood more. But for us, even if we have the opportunity to use it, it is a dirtier fuel. And I think it requires of more effort to move that wood, although we are lucky to have all the wood we could want, it is more complicated. We prefer, we like technology more and if we have the chance to use the solar panels, we would like to use them. There is also, it is likely you know it, heating by pellet, which is the olive’s pit and such. It is true that we have been studying it but, I don’t know, we don’t like the deal of the smoke generation indoors and such. So, I don’t know, we have left it on the side.

**Then you gift it away, the wood.**

Yes. The countryside people do use the wood a lot for the bbq, to heat the house, so whenever we can, people we know, friends, we let them know when we have trimmed and they go and pick up the wood and take it with them and use it for that, to heat their house and such. At the end, they have it easier. Maybe in a city it is more complicated because you need of a wagon. Therefore, if you leave from farming, you might have wagons or cards ready to pull from those wagons to load the wood. But the city people, as I mentioned before, in Jaen, Jaen the city, there are usually not too many farmers, they are usually in towns, then, since there are not so many farmers around, there are not so much people that have that type of cars, wagons or the ease to transport that wood. Maybe that’s why, truth is I don’t know, here in Jaen it is not used as much. But in towns, since everybody has their wagons, their off-road cars that pull wagons, they tend to use it. And I would say that most of people in towns use their heating or their chimney

**And what importance does the natural environment has for you?**

The environment, truth is we all in debt to it. I think we don’t behave good enough towards the environment for what it gives to us. It is truth that back in the day, in the area of phytosanitary products, to control weed in farming, which is one of the hardest parts to control, too many chemical products were being used. It is true that they’re still being used and I think they are still necessary but I think that before, according to my father as he told me, out of ignorance likely, nonsense was being made. They used too much. And, of course, in the short term it was beneficial, because with little money you were able to control the weed in the land, but I think, that in the medium and long term, nature pays back. And I think that by not being responsible we are being harming nature. It is true that, little by little, we are trying to use as little as possible of products and, well, looking after nature. I’m precisely a hunter, too. I have the gun license. But if I’m honest with you, I’ve gone hunting only once because I feel sorrow towards killing animals and, on top, us being the hunters, I don’t like hunting. Only once, because there is a small part of the olive grove that is young, it is only 5 years old, and when they’re young, rabbits attack the olive trees. And if you don’t control that, they dry, they’ll kill it. They eat it. It is true that there was an area that had a rabbit problem, there were too many, and we had to control it. Therefore, once or twice only we’ve gone out. But not the rest of the year. Mainly, to try to protect them, those animals, so they can have their growing areas and not… I think the goal we should aim for is to coexist with nature. Not to kill nature nor take advantage of it. I think that’s the goal we are achieving. Precisely, the other day with a technician, who is the one that helps us to apply treatments at the olive grove, was commenting that in the area, because we have a traditional plot, in the olive grove, and an intensive plot. Let’s say, traditional plot is when the olive trees are located 10 meters by ten meters and in the intensive that we have, they’re located 5 by 10. You exploit the land better, it is easier for the handling of the olive grove, production, harvesting, you reduce costs. Then, there are areas at which maybe an olive tree dried out because of a disease, because the root rotted, due to whatever. That is normal and what happens is that it gets re-planted. And precisely, the person who helps us to run the plot, the expert, well, right know I can’t get the name, the one who takes care of the phytosanitary products, chemicals, fertilizers and such, recommended us that instead of planting olive trees, we should plant other types of trees. Pine tree, eucalyptus, spruce. What for? Precisely for that, to benefit other species so that they can inhabit out area. It is comforting, too, encountering, I mean, not only seeing, let’s say, an area that has only olive trees but also to encounter other types of trees. And that allows for other birds to come too, it helps nature a little.

**And that’s what you do?**

We haven’t done it because he gave us the proposal two or three weeks ago. But since we have the plan to re-plant many olive trees that we are missing, we are likely going to do it. Not likely, for sure. We are going to follow that initiative because I’ve loved it. Precisely, and I’ll take the opportunity to say it, we have a tree, a short one, it is called, in the higher part of the plot, that we believe that could easily be 400 years old. It was a three that was already there. And it is the prettiest part of the plot, a spectacular tree, I don’t know if maybe 20 meters tall. Then, it is the prettiest area, because everything is olive trees except for that area where there is a tree that looks as if it was the guardian of that area. And so, it is comforting and if we can help to that, by doing other types of trees, pine trees or whatever, I think it would be very pretty.

**And is there something that you would like to change in the natural environment?**

In the rural environment?

**Yes.**

In the rural environment… Something that we could change… Well, maybe… Maybe, let’s see. I think the farmer’s mentality is a very old mentality. After all, there are very few people still, young people, making the generational replacement in farming. There are few people staying in agriculture. That’s why there are incentives from the government to try to make young people to stay in farming. What happens? Which is where I was going to, there is a lot of old people still in farming. Therefore, it is true that people still looks more after themselves rather than agriculture itself. As we were mentioning. I think it is a think that will change and will improve, little by little. As an example, as an example, historically, the best olive oils have been produced by Italy. Why? They have been able to understand the olive grove and they understood, let’s say, that the best olive oil is produced around October, November. More or less. All the oil produced around… In December it also generates a very good quality but quality starts to reduce already. But us, we are still recollecting that oil around December, around January. What are farmers looking after? Let’s see. They are looking to obtain a benefit in the short term but in the long term, they don’t understand, let’s say, the olive grove. I’ll explain myself. If you collect the oil early, let’s say you obtain less oil. The yield is lower. If you collect it later, the yield is higher. Then, if you, if your goal is to obtain as much oil as you can, the normal thing to do is to collect it later. And of course, in the short term that is ok but in the long term is it not because the olive tree gets damaged. It is better, let’s say, to collect it in the early dates like October or November. Always with care and precaution, ok? What happens? What am I trying to say with all of this? The producer is not trying to generate a quality product because if you collect in January, February, you don’t get a high-quality oil. Actually, you tend to obtain a low-quality oil. If people would collect, which they’re doing more often, around the early times of October, November, they would be caring about generating a product of a lot of quality, as this oil, for example, which I don’t say because it is mine but any plot here in Jaen has the potential to generate an oil of the same quality or even better.

**Beggar intromission**

Then, I think that’s one of the mentalities I would like the most to change from farmers. Which is true that is slowly changing, and also with the young people. That they focus the olive grove, of course it is a business and you have to generate profit, but focus it more, not looking that much on themselves but on everyone, because if everyone would generate a higher quality oil, from October, November harvest, we would increase the value of the oil, little by little the oil form Spain would become better known, because we have some olive and some oil very potent, of high category, and I think farming would earn the value it deserves. I think that’s something Italy has known how to do with a lot of anticipation and that’s why they are the ones who have known how to commercialize oil. And for it to be known at the global level. That’s one of the downsides I saw in olive groves, that it was hard to compete against that. But ok, with the generational replacement I think it is slowly being solved. People is becoming conscious and people is starting to harvest in earlier times, always aiming for, of course, profitability, because at the end it is a business, but I think that way the olive grove can really increase and improve, and get the category it deserves. Well, I think that is a little of the things I would like to be changed.

**And how is it working in this sector as a young person, because there are so many that are older, and how is it for you?**

Historically, at least in the countryside, when you would work in farming, it was because you didn’t like to study. It has happened to me many times, when I started around 2018 in agriculture, well, not always but often, people would tell me “What, you didn’t like studying and that’s why you stayed in farming?”. It is as if you don’t make it at studying you are left with the alternative of farming. Then, it was a sort of a poor perspective, and poorly realistic. It is another of the changes that is occurring little by little, with the generational replacement, because people are better understanding farming as a business. Therefore, farming I do think is way harder to run and, maybe, nowadays more than in the old days. Back in the day, farming was carried on in a more rutinary way. Old people would attend it in a more rutinary way. And… but they wouldn’t attend it, they wouldn’t focus it in a more professional way. After all, it is a business. You have to know how to divide the budget for fertilizer, for products, for olive trees reposition, for harvesting, to invest and such. And back in the day, it is something I see in my dad, going to the fields was more of a day-to-day thing. Not only to do hard work but just to go around, to control and check that everything was going ok, but more in an old lifestyle kind of way. I think young people, at the end, are going more to the fields but only when it really is required for us to go to the fields. Let’s say, older people go to the fields every day of the month. Young people, maybe, only go when it is necessary. From the 30 days, depending on the season, they maybe only go 15 days, 20 days or only 10 days. But those 10 days are way more productive than the older people’s that go every day to the fields. It is a totally different perspective on the olive grove. And I think it is way more professional. And I think too, that because of it, we are achieving that, little by little, it is given the value it deserves, farming. Therefore, I think there is a generational replacement in farming that I’m living. It is not hard, but you have to know how to understand it. How to understand this older people that have a more traditional view than young people that have a more modern view. That’s precisely what I’m living with my father. Certain transformations that we are doing in the field and such, he sees them from his older adult perspective. Of course, also with his experience, which is highly valuable but well, I’m trying to give it a more modern touch, to farming.

**And how did you learn to work in farming? You studied piano.**

They haven’t taught me to work there. In piano they don’t teach you how to work in farming. Well, farming, at the end, I think it is a think that you learn little by little. I have learnt about it from my father because, despite I have studied music, I also studied my high school and such, my father would take me a little to the fields to work it. It is also true that I have some vocation because the area of machinery and mechanics, cars and such, I like it a lot. And I think that farming now a days is very mechanized. Them. Something it is that I have learnt since I was young, little by little, and, well, he taught me. Now, they are giving workshops, well, back in the day too but they were less known, they are giving workshops, from the IFAPA, that if I’m not wrong it is a public organization and therefore, they give workshops on phytosanitary treatment, phytosanitary products to be able to do the right treatments in the olive grove, they also teach you farm management, amortisation, they try to focus you towards the day-to-day farming. But… but the truth is I lost my train of thought when the girl came. It was about the learning thing, that’s why I mentioned the workshops. Now they are teaching a little of the beginning of or the start of farming but I think most of people have learned about farming from their own experience, from ancestors. I’d say that the majority, even if now they’re giving courses and I think that, little by little, young people that want to do this kind of business, the one I’m trying to do, about the oil commercialization is something I already do by myself. At the end the olive grove is not easy to run but it is not excessively hard. Doing the basic, with what your father, your grandfather can teach you, you can keep up but if you want to get a larger profitability, it is truth that you have to study more into entrepreneurship. In my case, what I’m studying is about marketing because I, since we have a problem because the cooperatives here, at least in Jaen, in my environment, are not capable of commercialize oil the way it should be, we have to do it in a more individual manner, the ones who commercialize that oil. Then, on my side, I’m learning by my own foreign trade, marketing, website design, web positioning related topics to have more organic traffic through the website and well, that is done regarding self-learning and focused to the sale of the product, of the oil I launched. But the fundamentals, I’d say that the majority learned from their ancestors. In addition, that I know of there is no education related to it, that I know of. There is some education but focused on the oil, regarding tasting. If I’m not mistaken, in Jaen’s university, I don’t know if it is a master or a course that they do focus on the oil tasting. I don’t know exactly what they cover but, well, it might be something interesting to consider what it really is they’re looking for in an oil, if they’re looking for a most spicy taste, whatever. But that’s what I know about it.

**And do you feel you have enough opportunities to learn things that you need or that you want to learn?**

Well, that’s related to the previous question about, or the previous topic whether living in Jaen or leaving elsewhere. I think that Jaen, as I mentioned, is a city that has a lot of potential but is not being exploited. Therefore, at least from my side, I’m noticing difficulties to learn and to grow, in the entrepreneurial world at least, in that sense. If I only focused in the olive grove maintenance and focus on the olive trees, on the daily tasks of the olive grove, in that I have no problem because there are sufficient experts here to help me and to do it and to grow. But I think, under my perspective, that is limited, I think that has a boundary. The thing is that, I think the business world, the exportations, the commercialization with the olive oil, in my case bottled, and more concretely with a gourmet product, a high-quality product, I think that world, here in Jaen, at least it is being difficult for me to find that people or to find that people that can help me to commercialize it. It is truth that there is the provincial council of Jaen that helps and I should look into it, but when I’ve visited other cities, I’ve felt more comfortable because I think there is a more entrepreneurial world there. More concretely, Madrid, which is one of the cities I like the most in Spain. I think thar in a city like that, if I had the opportunity to spend some time, or some months, a year, half a year, I think I could find people that could help me, mainly in the area of commercialization or how to focus the oil world. Also, because there are more entrepreneurs in those cities, it is easier to find more entrepreneurs that could help you commercialize your product or that could interest them, expanding it, making it known. Then, well, in a way, in Jaen you can learn but mostly focused on the farming chores but for commerce on the oil and such, I think that maybe out it would be more interesting. In my opinion.

**And do you have enough opportunities to go to these places?**

Yes. Opportunities, at the end, I believe they’re as many as you want. I think that freedom, I have that luck, or to be able to use a car or to sign up to any related event that there is elsewhere. It doesn’t need to be related to olive grove. Any event that there is related to how to improve your brand, with informatics, some marketing, commercialization, company management, any kind of events related to that, I believe could be very beneficial, to me since I haven’t studied anything related to that in university, to companies. So, that I can easily find in big cities, precisely. Sevilla, Granada, Madrid, Malaga. In Jaen, for what I’ve looked into is more deficient in that. I haven’t found much events of that style.

**And in your free time do you go elsewhere too? Would you like to travel, to stay here or?**

Me, traveling… I’ve travelled, I know not so many places but I know some places here in Spain. I like to move around, I like to drive, I like to travel. But I don’t know that many countries in the European Union, for example. I’ve only travelled to Frankfurt, there in Germany, for Leisure with my brother, with a friend and such, but it is true that I would like to travel to certain foreign countries to learn about their cultures, to learn how people live, how they work, how they make business. They’ve recommended me to travel to Italy, too, because since they have that advantage over us in the area of oil commercialization, it could be a country that gives me a lot to understand them, on how they focus on oil. Then, that is something that I would like, that I would like to do. But well, in the meantime my day-to-day, my free time, I usually focus it here in Jaen, to my friends that are in Jaen, in towns, in Granada. In Malaga, too, I know people. Well, friends that are there and I have spent time with for some years and that when I have the opportunity, I take it. And I also have that course pending that, little by little… It is true that I, when I got the most into the oil world, got caught in the pandemic. Therefore, an amateur person, who is starting in the oil world, to be caught in such a deep crisis as it is COVID, it has put me down, it has been hard for me to move the project forward. But now that, little by little, things are getting normalized, I would like to try to attend all the events I can. Fairs too, to make the product known and such. So, of course, use the free time to attend event and meet people and such.

**And do you also participate in local politics?**

Sorry, could you repeat it?

**Do you participate in politics, for example in cooperatives or other organizations?**

By politics do you mean politicians…

**Yes, maybe local politics or…**

No, the thing is that I really don’t like the politics area at all because I’m totally against the current policies that are being made here in Spain, in Jaen, and everywhere, but either left and right, far, centre, everyone, I think no one is doing things for the citizen and since, from my point of view, no one is worrying about the citizens, I won’t worry about them. Therefore, anything that is politics, I don’t like it at all. At least from my side, I don’t feel represented by anyone.

**No?**

No. And I think that many young people, every time more people, are not feeling related to any politician. At the end, I think it is that. I don’t think or I haven’t yet seen anyone who really cares about us. At least at least here in Spain, and also in Jaen and, well, many of the cities. There are some towns that indeed, apparently there are towns’ majors that are closer but, well, the experience that I’ve had here in Jaen and such, I haven’t liked at all. That’s why these are topics that I prefer not to, that normally I don’t talk about with no one. Since I don’t like them, I prefer not to spend my time on them. It is something sad, truth is, but we have no option. And I think every day more young people are feeling more related to what I just said?

**Yeah? Why is that?**

It is because of what I said. We have a past in politics, both with left and right, and I think that neither have really cared about us. I think they’ve always cared about themselves and when they have promised anything, any improvement for society they have actually never done it. So, of course, when you’re being deceived in a systematic manner, in a continuous manner, and they always promise thing that then they never do, while would I care about them? Obviously, I prefer not to worry. At the end, my brother told me many years ago that maybe life is prettier if you worry about you and your goals. There are people, sadly, mainly in towns, in Jaen and such, that depends a lot of politicians. As in, when left or right arrive, doesn’t matter, maybe even more in olive groves, they expect they will solve the problems. And I think that my mentality and goal is not that. I prefer to solve it myself with my knowledge or with a team of people that could try to improve and increase the products value. Rather than waiting for politicians to solve the circumstances that there might be, either from the olive grove or any other type of farming. Therefore, I prefer not to depend on them at all.

**And are you part of a cooperative?**

There is a small cooperative, in Villargordo, which is where my parents used to live, that we belong to. We take small part of the production there, but the largest part of the production we take it to a purchasing spot, to a private mill. Because that’s another of the problems we have here in farming. At least in the area I move around, there are no cooperatives that are competent at all. Actually, there are many of those cooperatives with whom we have had problems and… Well, I don’t want to talk much about it but there were also some economical suspicions, you know? But I don’t want to mention nor give names nor anything of that style but, not so legal actions that haven’t give sufficient confidence to keep on working with those cooperatives. We have preferred to work with private buyers. Hopefully, there would be more competent cooperatives. For example, it is of my understand, I don’t know but it is of my understanding that the cooperative from Oro Bailén, that is in Bailén, actually their bottle is also called Oro Bailén, a very strong bottle and a very strong brand, they say, I don’t know it but they say, it is a cooperative that works pretty well. It is a little far away from us, but I wished there were more cooperatives of that style where the farmers are more protected and, let’s say, a cooperative works for everyone. A mill, a private buyer, is another entrepreneurship that looks after himself, which is normal, everyone looks after their business, therefore we would like to work more with mills. Sorry, not with mills, with cooperatives. Big part of the problem we have here, I talk about my area, around Jaen which is where I move around, big part of the problems we have is that the cooperatives are managed by very old people. When older people manage it, it doesn’t mean that they’re worse but a big part of those older people don’t usually have education. Education related to the oil commercialization. That’s why they don’t usually do well in their mills. There are some cooperatives from the town where I, where I, from the town my parents come from, that we were working with but due to the problems I mentioned we were forced to get out of it, because it reached a point that even threated rentability of the plot. After all, all the year working to produce a quality product to leave it in the hands of people that maybe don’t have the required knowledge to commercialize it or to grow.

**And this is part of ASAJA or other…?**

Yes. It actually is my father, the ASAJA member. And by him being a member of ASAJA, I too have privileges if I need any help or anything, of being with them. And, well, they don’t come as something bad, the unions, because they are the reflection of the farmers. They are unions and groups that help, let’s say, a face that represent us all. It doesn’t come as something bad for them to exist, this kind of unions.

**And you’ve said that the provincial council help young people, in what way do they help?**

They help young people, for example… If I’m not mistaken, here there is a competition, specifically with these early oils, gourmet oils, there is the *Jaen Selección* competition. If I’m not mistaken, if I’m not mistaken, it is sponsored by the provincial council. What are these competitions useful for? Obviously, to make yourself known. Then, they do events that help you to make yourself known with your brand or with business of your own. I think they also help you to present in fairs, also to make the product known and such. Although it is true that I ignore it, I would like to look into it and learn how exactly they could help me to, well, since we have the opportunity, take their hand and take advantage on everything regarding visibility and help.

**And do you think you can live well with the income from farming and your business?**

I think you can. I think farming… by fighting for agriculture, I think it still generated profitability The problem we farmers have, is that we don’t have everything under our control. It is true that any entrepreneur doesn’t have always everything under control but… but what I see is that one of the main inconvenient we have is that we depend on the weather, on the rain. This year, precisely, it has rained very little. We are actually under drought period already. Big part of the production, we haven’t had only lost it, but we believe we think we have lost around 40, 50% of the production, due to the lack of rain. And, therefore, it is a problem that we farmers have and we have to know how to manage, let’s say, because in a year like this you have to be prepared to know how manage the following year, we have to think ahead of these circumstances. But I think that you can still live well out of the olive grove.

**CUT AND START OF SECOND HALF**

I don’t know if it is good, if it is interesting or not.

**Let’s see, another topic we want to understand better is how is your physical condition.**

My physical condition? Well, my physical condition I think is normal, it is true it could be way better. Despite that in farming you do a lot of physical work; it is true that nowadays everything is very mechanized. Therefore, physical effort as such, there is not much made, not even in harvesting. But the vast majority is mostly very mechanized. Then, well, I, precisely, was, by my own, in a gym but in order to improve my physical shape and such, and I think it is too very interesting. But well, like it or not, this job allows you to be in constant movement and even if you don’t get the perfect physical shape, it helps you to stay ok. For example, my father, he doesn’t go to the gym, he doesn’t do anything, but he is well maintained, he remains agile. Actually, it is true that you have to be relatively agile when you are linking machinery, changing from the wagon to the grid to till the soil, you have to be relatively active; you have to be relatively agile and you stay in shape with agriculture.

**And do you feel satisfied with your current life here?**

Yes, I think I do. Choosing agriculture was a little about that, because you have a lot freedom. At the end, farming is a different adventure every time you go to work because thirty thousand different things can happen to you. There is no day, it is very hard for two days to be the same in farming. I also think I’ve learned to make use of the negative parts to transform them into good things. For example, there are certain monotonous tasks, which are sort of… In my case, when you use the string trimmer, I don’t know if you know what the string trimmer is or how that task goes. In it basically the tractor has a coupling on the back that what it does is cutting the weeds. What for? To prevent those weeds from growing in spring and from taking away the nutrients from the olive trees. Then they’re managed with a string trimmer. Since we have a relatively large plot, it is many hours of work in the tractor but of course, they’re many hours sited, only driving. But I take advantage to download courses and listen to them with headphones, to learn about marketing or whatever. Then, you take advantages from the downsides to learn other stuff. Then, like it or not, in that sense, I think there is much you can get out of farming. I think it is entertaining, I like it. And if you also like machines, which is my case, tractors, cars, vehicles and such, I think it is also exciting. There are areas we have, there is a plot which is a little more dangerous, it is more tilted, and you have to be careful. There are also workplace accidents related to tractors overturning and such. But it is like everything, it is also exciting. You have to be careful; you have to keep an eye but it is entertaining. You have to have precautions but it is entertaining.

**We have talked about different topics and we would like to understand what relevance these things have in your life, in order to feel good and be happy. We have some cards with these topics and we would like to ask you what relevance they have. Are they very important, less important or little important? And we would like to discuss topic by topic. And first comes the topic of mobility. To move to…**

The mobility farming gives you I think is perfect because… Well, mobility regarding your job or in the day-to-day?

**Yes, in general.**

In the day-to-day I think mobility is perfect, in my case, because, since I’m not fixed to an schedule, I can, *in quotes,* organize as I please. If I need to go to the bank, I can perfectly go. I don’t need to ask for free days or anything. So, I think that being, being lucky to be the owner of your own plot, your own field, gives you the mobility that you want. You can organize as you please and it has that freedom and that advantage.

**And is that important for you? To have that?**

Yes, it is very important because the other I see it as being submitted to something so that you lose your freedom. You submit to something. I think this is… The think is a big part of the advantages of farming is that.

**And self-determination?**

Those are the most important points, for me. Precisely, those are the key points to why I joined this business. They’re the key.

**And physical health?**

It too.

**This happens a little with these topics, that they’re all important.**

Of course, the thing is I’m touching all the main topics I also asked myself when I was younger. I mean, after all, even if it is true that in farming, although that’s something out liking, because I like to be ok and when I can and I have free time, I join a gym to improve even more. But in farming, obviously, mobility, that movement, that strength that you have, because when I go harvesting, we are at 0 degrees. Therefore, the body, 0, 1 degree, 3 degrees below zero, the body becomes stronger. Therefore, physical health, at the end, is improved and for me it is super important.

**And leisure and free time?**

Of course, to be able to enjoy and… The thing is all go ahead.

**Yes, it also goes up.**

It does, too. Because when you decide, for example when we plan holidays with some friends, the ones with the problem tend to be them. Because when the ask me “Fran, when can you go on holidays”? “Whenever you want”. It is true that not during the harvesting season because you have to be look out for, you depend on people and you need to be there. Let’s say that the months of November and December, are the months you’re sentenced to be there in the plot and to maintain your routine. But the rest of the year, you have your freedom and I don’t have any problems, barely ever, to go on holidays, have leisure or anything. Usually, when we go anywhere, they, during their holidays or on a free spot, they schedule that holiday, that trip or that event and I normally just organize myself to have those free days. Therefore, that’s an advantage we have, too. Probably not only in farming but for any entrepreneurship in any business.

**And public participation?**

Public participation… READS CARD. Of course, this is also a vital thing. Let’s see… It is true that public participation is the worst part of farming because if I only focus on the farming tasks, which is what older people do, it is one of the things I didn’t used to like because you’re basically alone or if you’re with people it tends to be way older people and it tends to be people who are not at your same, not even level, but that are not at your same life stage. Therefore, it is very hard to share things with them. What happens? That’s also why I wanted to make it into the oil world, or the oil business. I think that is what allows me to meet young people, of my same age, who also want to make business, to learn, marketing and such. So, one of the negative parts of farming, I think I’ve been able to take them into one of the most important parts. Because, even if farming subdues you to that, with the oil commercialization I’ve managed to take it of the best part. Precisely, it is one of the things I asked myself about joining farming or not, because it seemed very lonely, in that sense. Maybe back in the day there was not so much machines and when people would go to work it was a lot of people together, 10, 20, 30 people together going to work. But now, it is you alone with the machines. But, well, I think that in that sense I managed to transform it from something lonelier to being entirely an open thing. Therefore, well, I don’t know where to put it. I’ll put it as something negative because, more focused on farming, more regarding the olive grove, maintaining the olive grove, it is one of the downsides farming has.

**It is something that you might want to change a little.**

Not a little, a lot.

**And spirituality?**

READS CARD. Well, the truth is I haven’t thought about this. Spirituality. It is true that I’m a believer but I haven’t related it to farming, so I wouldn’t know how to tell you where to put it. It is true that older people working in farming, the vast majority, tend to go into the religious area, they’re believers. Therefore, in that sense, they’re people that won’t have, at least in that area, won’t have a problem. They won’t have people that crash with them in those ideals, to put it somehow. But I don’t know. I think I’ll leave it in a middle point. I leave it there.

**Middle point. And social relationships?**

Social relationships, I think they’re something similar to this.

**To public participation. Ok.**

I think it is something that can be related. Actually, social support is what I was mentioning earlier, that in towns mainly, with the old mentality, people who would work in farming was not good for anything else. I think that is one of the worse parts of farming that could still be improved. Although I think that, well, with the generational replacement, it will improve.

**And satisfactory work?**

I think that this is also a bad situation because, I don’t know, being responsible… Let’s say, our house is the planet earth and part of that earth is me, responsible from working it. To get a benefit but also to take care of it. And when you see that you’re planting, which was my father because he was the one who planted them, so many olive trees it is satisfactory because you’re contributing to the environment. As long as you don’t do negative things such as disastrous treatments nor damage nature, as long as you do curious and nice things, I think it is one of the best jobs in that sense. Plus, I think it is one of the most grateful jobs. I think that the olive grove, in my case, every time you do a treatment, you add fertilizer… Let’s say that if you’re on top of the olive grove, the olive grove will thank you later. After all, you’re working with living beings. I think it is very comforting in that sense.

**Ok. And education? Critical thinking?**

READS CARD. Education, critical thinking, regarding the olive grove… READS CARD. It is as we mentioned before. I think the olive grove knowledge stays… You can’t grow as much or maybe it is something more limited. If, in my case, when trying to negotiate with the oil, bottled, in this case bottled, in this case a bottle of Neove and such, I think that through there, this I can avoid because I can keep growing, regarding marketing, what I mentioned earlier. But regarding strictly farming, the olive grove, maintenance, and cares, this stays a little behind. I think it is also part of the most negative parts there are.

**And taking care of the environment?**

Well, this is what is here. The best. It is an important and hard job. Because you have to be cautious. You can do harm, many times unexpectedly, too. But I don’t know, I think it is a responsibility we have and, well, the best you can do you will try to do it, of course. Some details, for example, eating a snack, you go to eat and such, that detail, that silly thing of not throwing the plastic onto the fields, there is still a lot of people who still do it. So, I get angry with them and I tell them “You will pick that up”. Of course, it is stupid but it makes no sense. At the end, you’re messing up your home. Very small details that I think, those small sand grains, that make part of everything and what really makes us take care of the environment.

**Safety?**

Safety… Back in the day in farming, we have been a little unprotected. Actually, I think it is focused towards that. Precisely, we’ve already suffered from two robberies at our shed where we keep our machines and such. Therefore, we’ve been pushed to have security cameras, to have a security company, to have a fenced area trying to make the possible robberies more difficult. But precisely… It has been years from this. It is true that it has been some time, at least 10, 15 years since they don’t get in. But the last time they got in, they stole to my uncle, who has his shed, where he keeps his machines, close by, they stole his tractor, they took it and pushed against my shed to break the door. Crashing the tractor to the shed. They opened the gate and thanks to god they didn’t stole the machines and the tractor. They stole diesel and other things that, well, they weren’t too valuable. But they could have done a lot of barbarities. For a farmer, to be taken away his tools, such as his tractor, you leave us completely upside down. Therefore, this, well, I’m going to put it half way because back in the day it was very bad but nowadays is somehow better. And it can still improve.

**And mental health?**

Mental health. Let’s see. I’m encountering hard times because… Of course, for me the thing is that it had coincided with two hard years because of the drought we are suffering from. Therefore, you constantly live with that worry, if it will rain, if will not rain, for the olive grove to be better, worse. But, well, at the end it is a thing that any entrepreneurs deal with. I’ll put it in the middle. Not a positive nor a negative thing. Mental health… I can also be a little related to the social support and relationships. At the end, by not having that much relationships with that much people, you have more solitude, let’s say, in farming. And there might be people more affected by that and even for it to be determinant for them not to get into farming. It obviously isn’t the same as if you worked in hospitality, waiter, it is constant movement around people. Therefore, there is people that might be affected. I would leave it maybe here, in the middle part. There might be people that could be affected but, well, in my case I think that maybe with the oil project that could be solved. Because I think it gives you the opportunity to meet more people and I think that thanks to that I’m moving every time more and meeting more people.

**And at the end we have self-expression? Do you feel free to express?**

Of course… Let’s see, of course, this also depends if we put self-expression, if we put it into a more general scope, I think it is relatively negative. Because in farming, at the end, you always have to… even if every day is an adventure, it is a little of solving problems but, at the end, it could become a routine. But it is true that, going back to the oil commercialization, it is the freedom that it gives you, well, after all oil commercialization is a topic closely related to the olive grove. I think it gives me the freedom to do whatever I want. To be able to express myself however I want, on a simple bottle. After all, that bottle represents me. The way I am, if it has a more juvenile scope, a more adult scope. Therefore, in my personal case, I think it is one of the most positive parts about farming. I think that I, one of the main points about farming, or entrepreneurship, was that one. To try for me to be a person who can provide something important to society and that can help society. And I think it is a thing that is related to self-expression.

**Thanks a lot.**

You’re welcome.

**And at the end we have questions a little more specific. What is it that you do now with trimming waste?**

With what?

**With trimming waste from the plot.**

The trimming waste, right now, what we are doing is, a company from outside comes, it chops and grinds the trimming waste and they take it away to do fuel… Let’s see if I can say it… Fuel… the thing is I don’t know how it is categorized… How is it call?

**Biofuel?**

Biofuel, right. So that company chops it and takes it to make biofuel. It is true that us, in a not far away future, would like to chop those big branches and incorporate them into the soil. To leave it, well, to provide those nutrients to make organic matter. But right now, they’re taking it away to make biofuel.

**And why do you do it like that right now?**

Basically, because of the economic side. Because it doesn’t represent an expense for me. Because the thing I do is trimming the olive grove. What he does is taking it and he doesn’t charge me for chopping that… that… those branches. Therefore, basically, because of the economy, because it is cheap for me. But even if I had to make the investment, I would like to incorporate it because I think it could be beneficial for the land.

**I want to show you an image…**

I don’t know if it will fly away, mostly because of the wind.

**This is the topic we work with. And the idea is a little similar to what you have said. Here, there are different local communities that could provide biomass such as trimming waste, but it could also be, for example, orujillo or orujo, it could be produced here, be processed in a biorefinery where different products could be processed such as biofuel for the maritime sector but also different products such as biocarbon, which can be used again here, in the area. And we are here to understand if a concept like this could be developed here in Jaen, and with what subproducts and also if the people would be open to this concept. And if it would be something interesting for you, as a farmer, to provide the biomass.**

I think so. Of course, these are more technical topics and I’m only here for the study of these topics. It is true that here, it is as I commented, we have a very aged mentality, in the agricultural area. Therefore, it is hard to implement that. But, after all, I think that, little by little, that mentality is being renewed. Therefore, of course, anything that could be beneficial for us, we should look for it. To bet to this, could be the future. But I don’t know to what extend it could really substitute or overcome, biofuel, as a real alternative to petroleum. At the end, the petroleum, I don’t know if it is there due to necessity or due to political interests. That’s where politics get closer to all of this. At the end, I think that all of this is a thing that if politicians would have wanted, it would have already been done before, with laws. I also don’t know if the alternative to biofuel, the organic products and such, or the electric alternatives, could be the pioneers… The electric alternatives with electric panels and such, could be two references on how to live in the future, basically, basically from it. I think that as an alternative to survive only with biofuel and such, I think that not yet. I think that some decades still need to go by for us to be able to depend 100% on this kind of fuels. Hopefully, but I don’t think yet. Maybe, and I’m being adventurous to say this, but maybe even nuclear energy, clean, could be, I’m not going to talk about the future but, an alternative to try to get rid of petroleum, I don’t know, that a more complex topic, such that I get lost there. I’ve heard around that clean and efficient energy, could be very helpful. But, of course, we come back to the same thing of it being a political issue. I don’t know if they’re worrying about the planet or only about the economy. So, since I don’t know it, I can’t tell you. Obviously, everything that goes about putting a bet for nature, I support it. Obviously, too, obviously farming is a business. Everything that is profitable and could be done in pro of nature, I think it could be beneficial. Regarding what I was commenting before, about replacing, instead of replacing that plants that I’m missing putting pine trees and such, the most profitable for me is to put olive trees. I’d have more production. But I think that if we think a little about nature, with projects like this one, at the end I think it will be a benefit for everyone.

**Then, it would… it could be something that generates interest?**

Yes, I think it could be interesting. I tell you so, for it to be a 100% alternative, I don’t know. But for a percentage of fuels and such, to be biofuels and such, it could be an interesting thing.

**Thanks a lot for all of your time.**