

CHANDRA POUDEL

Growing Together | The Nashville Food Project – Nashville, Tennessee

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Date: April 25, 2016

Location: Central Market – Nashville, Tennessee

Interviewer: Jennifer Justus

Transcription: Deborah Mitchum

Length: 39:22

Project: Nashville's Nolensville Road

START OF INTERVIEW

[00:00:00]

Jennifer Justus: Hello. My name is Jennifer Justus and I'm with the Southern Foodways Alliance. Today is Wednesday, April 20, 2016, and we are at the Market Garden at 299 Haywood Lane as part of the Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program. I'm here with Mon and Chandra, and I'll let them introduce themselves.

[00:00:26]

Mon Poudel: Hello. My name is Mon Poudel. I'm here as an interpreter for dad. He's working here in a kitchen garden through the Refugee Agricultural Program from NICE. So, I will introduce my dad.

[00:00:47]

Chandra Poudel: My name is Chandra Poudel.

[00:00:54]

MP: Date of birth?

[00:00:57]

CP: Date of birth, January [*Unintelligible*], 1957.

[00:01:06]

JJ: Okay. So I will ask a question and then I'll give the microphone over to you, Mon, and then you can translate and then translate it back. Is that good? Okay. So, how did you learn to farm?

[00:01:24]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:01:28]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:01:40]

MP: He is farmer from his back home. From young years he used to do farmer and he is just still trying to be farmer.

[00:01:53]

JJ: Great, and where is back home, if you can talk about that a little bit?

[00:01:58]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:02:06]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:02:17]

MP: He is from Bhutan and the district is Sarpang and [*Unintelligible*] and place is [*Unintelligible*].

[00:02:30]

JJ: Okay, and can you talk about maybe the types of things that you grew in your native country, and then the types of things that you're growing here, and the differences in the two.

[00:02:44]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:03:04]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:03:40]

MP: In his back country he used to grow like rice, maize, wheat, buckwheat, like potato, tomatoes, in his country, and right here he is growing some different kind of spinach, and he appreciate the agricultural system where he is doing right now.

[00:04:04]

JJ: And can you talk a little bit about how you got into the program and – yeah, how you got into this program.

[00:04:16]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:04:25]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:04:33]

MP: He came here through two person, Christian and Lauren. They are helping for this garden.

[00:04:43]

JJ: Okay, and how long have you been part of the program?

[00:04:48]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:04:58]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:05:06]

MP: He went through one year past and he's running two year right now.

[00:05:13]

JJ: And how does it feel to you to be able to farm here when that's what you did in your home country?

[00:05:24]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:05:34]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:05:40]

MP: Everywhere, to do farming or agricultural system is same in every place.

[00:05:47]

JJ: Okay, and then can you talk a little bit about being able to sell your products this year at the farmers' market? How do you feel about going down to the Nashville Farmers' Market and selling to people there, but also people in your own community?

[00:06:09]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:06:25]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:06:43]

MP: As you talk about the farmer market, like whatever we grow here we are not able to sell in the community and farmer market is giving a priority to sell those vegetables which we are not able to sell in our community.

[00:07:10]

JJ: Can you--? Well, we talked about--. Can you say again some of the things that you're growing here for this season?

[00:07:21]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:07:33]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:07:42]

MP: In this season they are growing now like potatoes, mustard spinach, and then some other spinach too.

[00:07:51]

JJ: How do you like to cook some of those things that you're growing now?

[00:08:02]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:08:11]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:08:20]

MP: The vegetable that we grow we just clean it nicely first and then we just cook and eat it.

[00:08:31]

JJ: When did you arrive in Tennessee, or in the United States and also in Tennessee, and why did you come to Nashville specifically?

[00:08:47]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:09:04]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:09:34]

MP: He just came here for like three and a half year in United State and he hear about the Tennessee and the Tennessee was good place for him, like Nashville is good place for him. He hear about that things so that he came here and it's good right now. He's feeling good right now.

[00:09:55]

JJ: Was it because family was here already?

[00:10:00]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:10:09]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:10:16]

MP: There's not any family members here in Nashville.

[00:10:20]

JJ: What were your first impressions of Nashville, of the city and the people and also the food?

[00:10:32]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:11:06]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:11:24]

MP: .Nashville is a good place because, the people in Nashville, they are really intimate and their intimacy is really good, and to move from one place to another place is really safe and good in Nashville, and the peoples are also helpful in this city.

[00:11:45]

JJ: What about the food? Did you have specific impressions about the differences in food here and food in your home country?

[00:11:56]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:12:09]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:12:23]

MP: The food that they used to grow in the back country, they used to grow by themselves and they feel that the food are really tasty in their back home, but whatever the food right here, it's not like tasty like in the back home, for them.

[00:12:44]

JJ: Okay. Does farming help you feel more at home here?

[00:12:51]

MP: Say again?

[00:12:53]

JJ: Does farming help you feel more at home here?

[00:12:56]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:13:07]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:13:20]

MP: They are really interested in doing farming right here too because they are not having any kind of education system in their back home, and their occupation is farming so they're really interested in farming right here too.

[00:13:38]

JJ: Okay. I'm going to take a little break.

[00:13:43 *Break in recording*]

JJ: Can you talk a little bit about the differences in farming practices here and in your native country?

[00:13:53]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:14:07]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:14:30]

MP: They are finding difference in the availability of water in this place and in back home. In back home they used to have plenty of water for their farming system but not so [much rain?] here hardly. [*Unintelligible*] right now.

[00:14:46]

JJ: And then what about the climate? Can you talk about the differences in the climate in your native country and here, and also just the land, how the land is different?

[00:15:01]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:15:18]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:15:50]

MP: The land is same like right here in back home. He have not seen any farming system in other place right here but the land, wherever they are growing right now, they are similar to like our back countries, like in Bhutan, Nepal, and India. And as you compare about the climate, the climate is also like similar to our countries right here. There's not very difference in the climate right here.

[00:16:23]

JJ: So it gets pretty warm there too, I guess. [*Unintelligible*] Can you tell me how the climate might differ as far as hot and cold?

[00:16:38]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:16:52]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:17:13]

MP: Back home the climate was really good in the winter and summer too for the crops, but right here in the US we are doing farming for about eight months and we are not doing farming for about four months due to too much cold in here because that cold is destroying the crops.

[00:17:38]

JJ: Okay. One thing that I didn't ask earlier that I want to make sure we have on the record is the size of the plot that you're growing on.

[00:17:51]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:18:00]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:18:12]

MP: [*Pause*] I think you can delete this one.

[00:18:19]

JJ: Yeah. [*Pause*] It's okay.

[00:18:32]

MP: Yeah, I think that's not good.

[00:18:34]

JJ: Not right? Okay. Okay, we'll ask about that another time. Let's see.

[00:18:42]

MP: [*Asks question; continues conversation with CP*]

[00:18:56]

JJ: Did you learn to farm from your family or your father?

[00:19:01]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:19:10]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:19:26]

MP: In the back countries they don't have any school for them to read and farming is their education in their country. They have to do farming for their existence. Everything they have depend upon the farming and they spend their money, whatever they have wealth, for the farming, for their existence.

[00:19:53]

JJ: And do you want your family--? Well, first of all, how many children do you have, and do you want your family to learn the skill of farming as well, even here?

[00:20:07]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:20:16]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:20:41]

MP: Right now I have five children and altogether I have eight families and I want them to learn this farming system, and I am doing this farming system with the help of my children, and then I want--. And I want my childrens to learn about this farming and then all this farming system too.

[00:21:08]

JJ: Okay, and what do you like most about farming, but then what do you find most hard about it?

[00:21:18]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:21:44]

CP: [*Replies*]

[00:21:53]

MP: I want to do farming and learn this farming, and I sell some vegetables and earn some money for my family.

[00:22:04]

JJ: And, Mon, what do you like about farming, or not like about farming? [*Laughs*]

[00:22:11]

MP: Farming is a tradition. It is the process how we exist on the Earth. So, everybody have to learn to do farming system, because if you do not have any things, if you do not have any foods around this, if there's not any source of food, through market or [*Unintelligible*], we can do farming and we can get food. So it is the natural process too for the existence of animals, or like man, human being, you know, so I like farming. I love farming and I recommend to everybody to learn farming system and know how to farm, and I don't want anybody to hate farming system. [*Laughs*]

[00:23:00]

JJ: [*Laughs*] And do you have children of your own and do you want them to also learn how to farm?

[00:23:07]

MP: Say again?

[00:23:08]

JJ: Do you have children of your own, and how many, and do you want them to learn farming as well?

[00:23:15]

MP: I am single right now. I don't have any kids. So, if have kids in the future, I want them to learn farming system, and, I told you, it is like a tradition, so it should be learned by every person. If somebody don't know about the farming system, I mean, they're not knowing the tradition of farming, I mean, a way of existing on the Earth.

[00:23:48]

JJ: Great. Well, thank you both so much for your help today.

[00:23:54]

MP: [*Translates*]

[00:24:02]

CP: Thank you. [*Continues*]

[00:24:11]

MP: Thank you for doing this survey and now doing interview with us and selecting us for this interview. Thank you so much.

[00:24:31]

END OF INTERVIEW