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Time code	Interviewer /Interviewee	Transcript
00:24 – 00:28	Interviewer	Connie, tell me your full name and surname and where you were born.
00:31 – 00:41	Connie	Connie Benade[?] I was born in Worcester [indistinct]. And now I live in [indistinct] Block A, number 26.
1:43 – 1:46	Interviewer	Do you remember the name of the farm where you were born?
1:48 – 1:49	Connie	I was born at Oberex[?] grounds.
1:53 – 1:55	Interviewer	Where did your parents come from and what work did they do?
2:15 – 2:30	Connie	My parents came from Nuy in Worcesters. And my mother was a cleaner. A domestic worker.
2:31 – 2:33	Interviewer	And what work did your father do?
2:34 – 2:35	Connie	My father is deceased.
2:39 – 2:42	Interviewer	What do you know about your grandparents?
2:46 – 2:54	Connie	The year I was born, my grandmother was still alive. But my grandfather was already dead.
2:57 – 3:00	Interviewer	Do you know if your grandfather worked on a farm?
3:01 – 3:02	Connie	My grandfather was a shoemaker.
3:05 – 3:13	Interviewer	Connie, did you not say your grandparents lived on a farm? Did they only live on the farm and not work there?
3:13 – 3:14	Connie	No.
3:14 – 3:17	Interviewer	Can you tell us a little bit about that?
3:20 – 4:02	Connie	The year my grandmother was living in Oberex grounds, my grandmother was a housewife. My grandmother worked at a school. My grandmother cleaned the classrooms. And my grandmother also worked in a farmer's kitchen. And it was in those years when I was grown up that my grandfather was already dead. My mother told me that my grandfather was a shoemaker.
4:04 – 4:08	Interviewer	When did you start working on a farm? And what kind of farm was it?
4:20 – 4:28	Connie	I started working on the farm in the year 2000, just after I had my child. Then I started working on the farm by the name Modderdrift.
4:31 – 4:33	Interviewer	And what kind of work did you do there?

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4:37 4:56	-	Connie	We prune leaves, harvest vines, most of the bunches we took off, cut off bunches. And when the grapes are ripe we take them to the warehouse.
5:01 5:06	-	Interviewer	And did you work on a seasonal basis, or was it permanent?
5:07 5:15	-	Connie	No, seasonal. We had to work for six months, and then we had to stay at home for three or four months.
5:16 5:21	-	Interviewer	And how many years did you work on the farm?
5:22 5:24	-	Connie	I worked on the farm for 10 to 15 years.
5:27 5:37	-	Interviewer	Can you describe a bit for us the work that you do on a daily basis?
5:37 5:38	-	Connie	Now, or on the farm?
5:38 5:39	-	Interviewer	Now, on the farm, yes.
5:40 6:10	-	Connie	Daily work on the farm. On a seasonal basis, we prune shoots, prune leaves, throw bunches, prune bunches, and when the bunches are ripe in the storerooms, we work on the scale, or we cut out the bunches and pack it.
6:12 6:18	-	Interviewer	And the farm where you work now, is it grapes for wine?
6:20 6:21	-	Connie	No, it's exporting.
6:28 6:34	-	Interviewer	I would like to hear what kind of work is done in the warehouse. Can you tell us a bit about that?
6:36 7:00	-	Connie	There is a cutter, and there is a sorter, and there is a man who works on the scale. So, the man who prunes the grapes and puts it on the table, and then another sorts and packs the box, and then it goes to the scale but the person who works on the scale, they have to make sure that the weight that the inspector is looking for, that the weight is correct.
7:03 – 7:06		Interviewer	And do you work with targets?
7:06 – 7:06		Connie	Yes.
7:07 – 7:09		Interviewer	Can you explain a bit?
7:10 – 7:39		Connie	The target, the farmer gives you a target every day. And after you make target, it's like a goal. They give you a goal every day, and when you make more than your goal, then you get that extra amount of money, that you might need for the day. The extra that you make, is the extra money that the farmer pays.
7:41 – 7:44		Interviewer	And if you don't reach the target, what happens? Can you just start with, if...

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7:50 – 8:00	Connie	Ah yes, if the farmer is on the farm now, he has his targets, and if you don't reach your target, then you basically lose a whole day's wages.
8:04 – 8:04	Interviewer	Can they do that?
8:06 – 8:43	Connie	Many farmers do that. And that's why, [indistinct] season, then you have to reach your goal. Because sometimes, they give you a target and you have to do three or four rows a day. And in the warehouse, they have goals, then you have to pack maybe 100 boxes for the day. And then, if you get more than 100 boxes, you get extra money on top of your day wage.
8:47 – 8:54	Interviewer	And the seasonal workers are most of them women?
8:59 – 9:04	Connie	The majority of the seasonal workers are women. Women who might have houses or children.
9:06 – 9:17	Interviewer	And are these people from outside South Africa? Like people from Zimbabwe and Lesotho? And also South Africans?
9:27 – 9:39	Connie	The seasonal workers are mostly women. And there are more people from South Africa and here and there a foreigner.
9:42 – 9:51	Interviewer	And how does it work? Do you sign a contract with the farm owner? For the seasonal work?
9:56 – 10:31	Connie	Now we sign a contract, yes. That year I started working they did not sign contracts. And now I hear that we sign a contract. Ripe season, you have to sign a contract. Maybe the first grapes are ripe [indistinct]. And then when they go to the store, they have to sign the contract because labour was deducted and UIF is deducted.
10:32 – 10:39	Interviewer	And what do you do outside the season? Is it possible to get other work?
10:40 – 10:47	Connie	When I'm done after the season, I might do charge office for the people.
10:53 – 11:02	Interviewer	Are you used to working at the same farm? How many years have you been working at the same farm?
11:02 – 11:07	Connie	I have been working on the same farm for 5-6 years.
11:31 – 11:32	Interviewer	How many hours do you usually work?
11:36 – 11:38	Connie	When I work at someone's house?
11:39 – 11:43	Interviewer	On the farm.
11:45 – 12:19	Connie	When I work in the vineyards, it's 8 hours. When it's ripe season, I might come home at 8 or 9 o'clock.

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		When it's ripe season, you prune above a certain number of grapes, and those grapes need to be worked up. [indistinct]
12:20 12:22	– Interviewer	Can you tell us a bit about your family?
12:28 12:49	– Connie	I have one daughter. My daughter has a son. We stay at my auntie's house. I have a brother. Yes.
12:52 12:57	– Interviewer	What do you think is the most important challenge of seasonal work on the farm?
13:00 13:30	– Connie	The challenge is actually only when the grapes turn to ripe. The hours that you work, you get home late at night. You don't have time to spend with your family. Many of the women have big families for who they still need to go cook, clean. And then you have to get up early again. There are many challenges on the farm itself. Many of the farmers are very strict when it comes to the packing of the grapes. So, you as a person working for that farmer, you don't have much time for yourself when you get home at 10 or 11 at night. Then you have to still do washing and so on.
13:30 14:05	– Interviewer	And how do you get to the farm every day? Is there a transport that is managed by the farm owner?
14:08 14:23	– Connie	The farmer provides transport for the people in trucks, or they sign contracts with the bus owners, and he will take them to the farm.
14:27 14:52	– Interviewer	How can the working conditions of seasonal workers be improved? If you think of your own situation, what are the things that can help to improve the situation?
14:55 16:01	– Connie	To make life easier for us as farm workers, the farmer, when it comes to ripe season, the farmer can allow us to clock out early. Especially for the women who have homes and children. Sometimes, the women have to work weekends as well. Especially when it's ripe season, they have to work on Saturdays. So, basically, what do you have left of the weekend if you have to work on a Saturday and clock out late? If the farmer can just let the people clock out early during the week, then they can work half day on a Saturday. And some of the farmers paid in cash. Not anymore. They don't pay cash when they let you work on a Saturday.
16:13 16:20	– Interviewer	How do you feel about the salary you get, is that enough to live on?
16:22 17:27	– Connie	For me, you can live on that salary. The people are paid per fortnight. Fortnight, they get 2400, 2600. For me, I am satisfied with it because every year the farm workers get increase. And it is 27-28 per hour a day.

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		So, for me that do not have my own house, I am satisfied with that. But I don't know how other people feel about it, other women who are married with children, a husband, a family. So, I don't know how other women feel who gets paid per fortnight. R2600, 2400, she can live on that, but life is expensive.
17:30 17:36	– Interviewer	Are seasonal workers allowed to join a union?
17:36 17:36	– Connie	Yes.
17:38 17:40	– Interviewer	Are you a member of a union?
17:38 17:38	– Connie	No.
17:46 17:50	– Interviewer	Why are you not a member? Is there a reason for that?
17:52 17:53	– Connie	No, there is no reason.
17:58 18:00	– Interviewer	How do you feel about the farm where you work?
18:04 18:17	– Connie	I feel good about the farm I work at. I can't complain about the farm I work at.
18:21 18:25	– Interviewer	Do you remember the farm workers strike of 2012?
18:25 18:25	– Connie	Yes.
18:29 18:30	– Interviewer	Were you part of the strike?
18:30 18:30	– Connie	No.
18:32 18:38	– Interviewer	Do you know of any farm workers who were part of the strike?
18:41 18:46	– Connie	I know a few people but some of them are deceased.
18:47 18:49	– Interviewer	And your family was not affected?
18:49 18:49	– Connie	No.
18:53 18:56	– Interviewer	How would you describe the system under which you work?
19:05 19:36	– Connie	The system under which I work... The farmer is very strict. Especially when its soil season. Then the farmer is very strict about the grapes. When he gets the vines

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		in front of him, he is very precise about what to take off and how, especially about breaking the leaves. Maybe leaves around the bunch must be like this.
19:52 20:16	–	So sometimes I understand the farmers because at the end of the day, it is their money and if the grapes are burnt, they lose money. Or if it is too ripe. So as workers, we just do what they ask so there's no problems.
20:23 20:32	– Interviewer	In this area, what do most of the people do and how is life here? Give me the area's name.
20:33 20:55	– Connie	The area here is [indistinct]. The circumstances here are not so good. The people here live from hand to mouth. So, if you have some money, you have to use it carefully.
20:59 21:03	– Interviewer	Is it very difficult to find work in the area of Worcester?
21:03 21:07	– Connie	The area of Worcester...especially if you don't have any qualifications then it's very difficult for you to find work.
21:07 21:07	– Interviewer	Thank you. Any follow-ups?
21:07 21:35	– Interviewer	I want to know how you came to Worcester and to this place and what are some of the struggles that you and your family face every day?
21:43 22:41	– Connie	My grandfather died and as a result, we moved to town. We lived in [indistinct] street for three years. After that, these flats were built. We were one of the first residents here. We have been living here for more than 35 years. We have ups and downs in the area due to gang violence. As a person, if you don't respect other people, you won't get anywhere.
22:41 23:01	–	We all live how [indistinct] to live. As I said, it's from hand to mouth. If you get some money today, cleaning someone's kitchen for just a little money because you have to put food on the table.
23:10 23:10	– Interviewer	Thank you Connie.
23:12 23:14	– Interviewer	Have you ever heard of the Dop system?
23:16 23:16	– Connie	No.
23:19 24:07	– Interviewer	Are there any problems in your opinion with alcoholism amongst farmers? And does it come from... So, the Dop system was in the slavery times

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		where people were paid with wine and that had a legacy on the people who work on the farm. We tell the story about the Dop system and what is the legacy. Does what happened in the past still affect people?
24:13 24:25	– Connie	In my opinion, it does not affect the people on the farm because people who worked on the farm's lives are better than us living in town.
24:25 24:57	–	The lives of people on the farms are much like ours who live in town, but they work there. They get almost R28 per hour but to get somewhere, you have to work for it.
24:59 25:14	– Interviewer	The farm where you work, is there a union and which union is it? Is it CSAAWU or FAWU?
25:16 25:16	– Connie	I don't know.
25:31 25:53	– Interviewer	How do you feel about the issue of land in South Africa? Is it something you thought about? Do you think the people who work on the farm should get some land to grow something?
26:17 26:24	– Interviewer	People are talking about the issue of land in South Africa. Have you thought about that? Do you think it would be a good thing if the farm workers would get some land?
26:29 27:27	– Connie	It would be good if the farm workers would get some land to plant something. But I don't know about here in De Doorns because the farmers here are more about production. So many of the people work on the farms until they are old. Then when they pass away and there are children, the children have to move out. So, I would be happy if some of the farmers would give some land to the workers or maybe just something.
27:27 28:21	–	Then they can plough it back to their children. But as I've seen many times, if the father passes away, the children are left behind and they have to empty the house. Our ancestors worked themselves to death for the farmers and the children staying behind have to live. It would make me happy if the farmer would give those children a piece of land or a house to raise their children.
28:24 28:29	– Interviewer	What do you think of South Africa today? Do you feel free?
28:33 29:04	– Connie	I feel free, but the crime figure is a bit high in South Africa. The problem is that there are gangs in the area. Sometimes the people of today don't care who they stab or shoot. You have to stay in your house because you are too scared to go outside. You have to be afraid to get injured.

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29:08 29:20	–	Interviewer	What do you think about your future? Do you think things will change? Will it get better?
29:27 29:39	–	Connie	I don't know what the future holds for me, but for me, I hope it will get better for farm workers and people who still live in South Africa.
29:43 29:43	–	Interviewer	Thank you very much.