**Fanos, 67, Rabbit Farming, Avgorou**

**1. Can you tell me a few things about yourself? For example, when and where you were born? Did you study for anything? Have you travelled or lived overseas?**

*My name is Fanos and I’m 67 years old. I was born here in Avgorou [a village east of the island] and have lived here all my life. I’m married and I’ve got eight children and two grandchildren. I have my own rabbit farm just on the outskirts of the village.*

**2. Have you ever owned another business in the past? How long have you been an owner of a business? How many businesses have you owned in the past?**

*I haven’t owned any other businesses but I worked at hotels, building sites, as a farmer for a couple of years and various other jobs. Actually I worked in lots of jobs; I’ve got eight children, so you can understand that I didn’t have the luxury of doing only one job and spending time at home.*

**3. Can you tell me about the history behind your business?**

*I started this business in 2000 when my youngest son was born. Back then the owner of a local supermarket approached me and suggested that I should raise rabbits and that he would buy only from me. There were many times when the community council and the residents would help because we were often in financial difficulties. I’m not ashamed to say so because it’s true. However, I told him that the business would not succeed if I was only selling to him. So he spoke with Petrakis [the owner of a large supermarket in the village] and got him to agree to buy from me too. So I decided to raise and package rabbit and now I distribute to the three supermarkets in the village.*

* **That’s truly a great story. So do you work alone or do you have help?**

*Three of my children who are still living with me come to work here, as I can’t do it all myself. My wife is mostly at home but she also cleans houses for an additional monthly income. Things are a little better now because I get a pension too, but don’t think it’s a major help, it’s only a small amount. My five eldest children have their own jobs and are able to look after themselves. My eldest daughter is having a tough time because she has two children as well, but I think they get by alright.*

**4. What advantages did you see in continuing your business?**

*The advantages are what I have already told you. I was working for a wage that wasn’t enough to feed eight children. With the help of the council and the owners of the local supermarkets I managed to set up my farm and make just about enough to feed my whole family [he appears quite moved by the fact]. I wish I could afford to help them with further studies or help them financially but unfortunately I can’t. But I’m not bitter about it, God has helped us.*

**5. Are you facing any obstacles or problems in keeping your business going?**

*It’s a tiring job but I do enjoy it. I’m used to working from morning to night from a young age, so I’m not so bothered. Even when I’m at home at night, I might take my moped and go down to the farm to check that everything is OK.*

**6. Considering the experience that you have built up over the years but also the experience that you are going through now, would you say that you are still able to maintain the business and deal with the problems that affect it?**

*I’m waiting for my remaining three children to settle into their own jobs so that I can make more money and put something aside for myself and my wife. We’ve had enough financial difficulties in our lives but we have definitely had a happy family life. So, I’ll work here for as long as I can, until one of my children takes over the business to carry it on when I grow old.*