00;00;01;01 - 00;00;04;24

[Interviewer] Sir, can you tell me your name and where you are from?

00;00;04;25 - 00;00;07;22

I am. My name is Hamilton Sierra.

00;00;07;23 - 00;00;10;01

I'm not from here

but my wife is from here, from Manaure.

00;00;10;11 - 00;00;13;28

I am from there on the lower Magdalena coast.

00;00;13;29 - 00;00;15;07

[Interviewer] How long have you been working here?

00;00;15;15 - 00;00;17;23

Two years ago,

00;00;17;24 - 00;00;20;20

I'm here just learning the salt.

00;00;21;02 - 00;00;22;19

[Interviewer] And how have you been learning?

00;00;22;20 - 00;00;26;25

Well thank God well, because of this

we live and from this we eat here and

00;00;27;25 - 00;00;29;04

I have done well

00;00;29;04 - 00;00;31;24

thank God, I have already learned many things that I did not know about salt.

00;00;33;06 - 00;00;35;00

[Interviewer] What have you learned?

00;00;35;01 - 00;00;37;13

I have learned to collect

00;00;38;08 - 00;00;41;28

to load, I did not know, but here I have learned all that here.

00;00;42;14 - 00;00;44;20

[Interviewer] Okay.

00;00;45;14 - 00;00;50;08

[Interviewer] And well, what is the difference in this job

to another job that you have done?

00;00;50;26 - 00;00;54;09

The difference may be that this job is heavy for me.

00;00;55;01 - 00;00;57;09

Yes, heavy.

00;00;57;10 - 00;01;00;09

I had never experienced salt, but I experienced it and

00;01;01;15 - 00;01;02;17

from here

00;01;02;17 - 00;01;05;17

you live from this here, you live from the salt.

00;01;05;18 - 00;01;08;12

Here, well, you don't want the rain to fall

00;01;08;13 - 00;01;11;15

because if it rains,

we won’t have a job, you understand?

00;01;12;00 - 00;01;14;01

So we need the weather to be, just as it is now,

00;01;14;19 - 00;01;18;26

that it´s breezy, that it’s clear, that the sun shines,

the more sun hits and breeze, the better for us.

00;01;18;27 - 00;01;22;18

Because since we live from this, then

00;01;22;19 - 00;01;24;27

We need the sun to shine, the breeze to run.

00;01;25;19 - 00;01;28;22

[Interviewer] Most people want it to rain, right?

00;01;29;08 - 00;01;34;04

If most people want it to rain, but then

if it rains we don't have resources to eat,

00;01;34;07 - 00;01;37;11

because if we don't take out the salt

We don't have anything to eat either.

00;01;37;24 - 00;01;39;01

[Interviewer] And how is it done?

00;01;39;02 - 00;01;42;14

[Interviewer] How does salt get damaged by rain?

00;01;42;15 - 00;01;44;11

Well... as it is,

00;01;44;12 - 00;01;47;27

if it’s in a part that is dry above, very little is washed,

00;01;48;06 - 00;01;52;21

but if it is inside the pond, since the pond has no outlet, it is washed,

00;01;54;00 - 00;01;56;16

it dissolves, it melts in a wash, it melts away.

00;01;58;03 - 00;02;00;14

If if rains too hard, I mean, if it doesn’t rain that much

00;02;01;04 - 00;02;05;21

it is not consumed.

00;02;05;26 - 00;02;09;02

[Interviewer] Have you seen that there is a spirituality here as well?

00;02;09;10 - 00;02;11;28

[Interviewer] related to salt or elements or not?

00;02;13;00 - 00;02;15;25

No.

00;02;16;12 - 00;02;19;23

[Interviewer] And well, this here by the sea too

come the salt, right?

00;02;19;24 - 00;02;24;07

Yes of course, because that's where they get the water from,

over there there is a little canal, that over there is

00;02;24;08 - 00;02;27;03

a canal, that water falls there,

00;02;28;05 - 00;02;31;21

from there it takes a week or about fifteen days.

00;02;31;22 - 00;02;33;28

To end up here.

00;02;35;00 - 00;02;37;00

It comes here and from here the salt goes,

00;02;38;06 - 00;02;41;00

it crystallizes here in the ponds

00;02;41;13 - 00;02;44;29

with the sun and the breeze. when it's ready

00;02;45;00 - 00;02;49;15

one comes, puts the shovel in it and if it is thick it is already good to pick it up.

00;02;49;27 - 00;02;54;17

One comes to pick up with the owner of

the pond, the water is removed again,

00;02;55;07 - 00;02;57;23

it passes through the pond and collects the salt.

00;02;58;25 - 00;03;00;29

[Interviewer] And that, but it comes from..., why is it done like that?

00;03;01;00 - 00;03;03;15

It's done like this to make it dry, do you understand?

00;03;04;24 - 00;03;07;29

So that it drains the water.

00;03;08;00 - 00;03;09;06

[Interviewer] So one fixes it here and puts it like this?

00;03;10;15 - 00;03;12;08

Yes of course, because one does it like that

00;03;12;08 - 00;03;16;17

one piles it up and the higher it is

00;03;17;03 - 00;03;20;09

The lower goes the water, do you understand?

00;03;20;10 - 00;03;22;06

[Interviewer] Ah okay I didn't know why it was like that

00;03;22;15 - 00;03;24;03

[Interviewer] How long does it last like this, what would be ideal?

00;03;24;03 - 00;03;29;20

Well, yes, the pond, for example, is exploited

today you can plow tomorrow, you have all day

00;03;29;21 - 00;03;33;06

to cover, tomorrow you can load it

like we´re doing right now

00;03;33;29 - 00;03;35;28

Load it onto the cars and they take it away.

00;03;36;12 - 00;03;38;14

[Interviewer] So then it's put in the bag?

00;03;38;15 - 00;03;40;28

In the bag and the car comes and we ship the cars.

00;03;42;01 - 00;03;46;22

[Interviewer] What is your daily earnings through salt work?

00;03;46;23 - 00;03;50;17

Well here depending on the cars.

00;03;51;07 - 00;03;53;20

If, for example, if we fill only one car

00;03;53;21 - 00;03;56;04

among ten people,

00;03;56;22 - 00;03;59;14

Let's put $14,000 or $10,000 among us together,

00;04;00;27 - 00;04;03;23

if the salt is from us, that we export it,

00;04;04;04 - 00;04;07;13

Well, that’s around $30,000

to each one, daily,

00;04;08;26 - 00;04;12;05

If we have more salt and two cars arrive, three cars,

00;04;12;06 - 00;04;17;17

we have $60,000, $80,000 left, depending on the cars,

00;04;18;06 - 00;04;23;10

because here if a car doesn't arrive there isn't either,

there is no production of anything.

00;04;23;11 - 00;04;26;13

[Interviewer] Who are the ones from the cars?

00;04;26;14 - 00;04;30;01

Well, the owners of the ponds command the cars,

00;04;30;21 - 00;04;33;29

They say “go to that part, that there is a car over there”

00;04;34;00 - 00;04;35;19

and one loads it.

00;04;36;00 - 00;04;39;13

because one here has the salt,

but if they don't arrive we don't have either

00;04;40;08 - 00;04;44;15

nothing.

00;04;44;16 - 00;04;46;29

[Interviewer] What knowledge do you have of salt, what is it used for?

00;04;47;00 - 00;04;50;19

Well, salt is used for many things, for livestock, for eating,

00;04;51;24 - 00;04;54;08

for many things that …

00;04;55;26 - 00;04;57;17

salt is very important

00;04;57;25 - 00;05;00;12

because if it wasn’t for the salt you couldn’t,

00;05;00;21 - 00;05;05;17

You can't make some rice, you can't do something because salt is irreplaceable.

00;05;06;24 - 00;05;07;19

[Interviewer] Basis of life?

00;05;07;20 - 00;05;10;27

Yes, a base that... for example you,

00;05;12;01 - 00;05;14;03

with sugar, if you’re going to make some juice

00;05;14;04 - 00;05;17;07

You can put some cane sugar or something, but you can’t do that with salt,

00;05;19;02 - 00;05;20;02

You can't season rice, you can't add brown sugar,

00;05;20;02 - 00;05;22;01

you can't put anything on it.

00;05;22;05 - 00;05;25;18

So this is a point

which is important to us here in Manaure.

00;05;25;19 - 00;05;29;17

I'm not from here, but it's important

because this is where I get the food from

00;05;31;11 - 00;05;33;20

Daily, every day

00;05;33;21 - 00;05;37;14

From 4 in the morning sometimes 3,

depending on the cars,

00;05;37;15 - 00;05;41;28

if they arrive early at 5 in the morning or arrive at 3,

at that time you have to stop

00;05;41;29 - 00;05;43;14

to pack the salt

00;05;44;27 - 00;05;47;06

[Interviewer] and until ten?

00;05;47;07 - 00;05;50;10

Until ten in the morning and sometimes they take until eleven,

00;05;50;25 - 00;05;54;08

sometimes even until noon,

because they come and go from here to

00;05;54;15 - 00;05;54;22

Uribia,

00;05;55;28 - 00;05;58;08

So it takes until that, that they come here.

00;05;59;17 - 00;06;03;20

[Interviewer] Does it also have to do with the sun,

that is very, very strong?

00;06;03;21 - 00;06;07;26

Yes, it affects us a lot

when it’s around this time, eleven o'clock

00;06;08;12 - 00;06;11;28

and a car parks, sometimes you even vomit,

00;06;12;11 - 00;06;14;25

Or faint because of the very strong sun.

00;06;15;25 - 00;06;17;26

But you know, you do that for…

00;06;17;27 - 00;06;20;16

because one must do it, because

00;06;21;17 - 00;06;24;26

the food comes from there.