My dad is one of those men who does not worry about his own age. We always talk and praise him for the great energy he has, because he still climbs enormous trees and wakes up very early every single day to take fruit from the farm to the town, in our land called Soatá in Boyacá, Colombia.

We remember him for his great memory, excellence and discipline when he does something, this is why we know him as the Yarumo, a tall, strong and long-lasting tree, exactly how he is. He is a man who has always transmitted his love for the countryside, with its fruits produced on the farm, among them, banana, orange, plantain, tangerine, lemon, Isabella grapes, arazá, mangoes, and more. His farm is to be admired, he does almost everything himself, he draws for sowing, pruning, scything, collecting the fruits, fertilizing, watering, taking the fruits to the village and selling them.

For my husband and our daughter it is a wonderful experience to walk around the village seeing how people order fruits from him, to listen to them talk about everything he produces. During these times of quarantine, we waits for the permissions to go out and directly delivers washed and disinfected fruits to his clients, who are very grateful to receive them directly in their homes. It is also during those occasions he sometimes practices bartering, exchanging fruits for the bread of the week.
In his free time he watches videos about organic agriculture and good practices, he always comes up with new ideas and he does not stay still. Last year, he and my husband installed irrigation systems for almost 4,000 Tahitian lemon plants from different farmers, it was rewarding to see them working together for the rural development of my town. The fruit he sells is almost 40% cheaper than in stores or supermarkets, he always says that people should collaborate and that this is one way to do it.

When we are on the farm, our greatest joy is to be together as a family. I have a sister and a brother, and five little nephews. My father always takes them all for walks and to bring down fruit, they arrive with their hands full of tangerine, oranges, seeds and we share everything during conversations, where he always takes the opportunity to teach us how to take care of the field.

Four years ago we managed to buy a small farm near his land and our idea is to plant Tahitian lemon because we see a great projection with this fruit, and I have always said that the greatest wealth that my father has on the farm is the lemon. We say the same thing to our daughter Isabella, that we must work very wisely because thanks to the countryside perhaps she can go to university and that the commitment is that from the knowledge she acquires there, she will have to give something back to the countryside, whether it is working with communities, producers, or why not and that is what we want most, to live from the countryside. Fortunately, she loves it.

My father does not teach us with his words, he has taught us with his example of love for the countryside, that is why today I decided to tell some of his story, that more than anecdotes are the day-to-day in our family and Isabella, his 7 year old granddaughter wants to continue walking with him through the Yarumo farm.