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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** comments on Corporate Monopolies in the Food System

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legislation nor are any regulations proposed. What we say could potentially put an end to further consolidation in the agricultural, processing, and supermarket sectors.

We understand that the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are seeking our comments on consolidation in the food system by December 31, 2009. We are writing to add our voices to those seeking an END to further consolidation in the agricultural, processing, and supermarket sectors of our economy.

We have concerns about where our food comes from, the working conditions of farmers and food workers, access to fresh produce in our neighborhoods, meat and poultry packing conditions that threaten your health and that of the workers corporate giants like Monsanto control a large share of seed supply - with seed that depends on their chemicals. Our current agricultural and food systems currently primarily serve agribusiness, not farmers or consumers.

The article below, from the Food First Institute, expresses our concerns and our hopes.

Written By Eric Holt-Giménez and Annie Shattuck

"With the worsening of the global food crisis, general international agreement has emerged regarding the importance of smallholder agriculture in the battle against hunger and poverty. However, public debate has been highly restricted and increasingly dominated by conventional, market-led, and corporate approaches to aid and agricultural development. These positions call for a return to the World Trade Organisation's Doha Round, a new "Green Revolution" and the spread of biotechnology to the countries of the Global South. In global and national policy circles, these "business as usual" approaches are eclipsing many proven, highly effective, farmer-driven agroecological and redistributive approaches to agricultural development.

Sustainable, smallholder agriculture represents the best option for resolving the fourfold food-finance-fuel and climate crises. Although conventional wisdom assumes small family farms are backward and unproductive, agroecological research has shown that given a chance, small farms are much more productive than large farms. Small, ecological farms help cool the planet and provide many important ecosystem services; they are a reservoir for biodiversity, and are less vulnerable to pests, disease and environmental shock."

Thank you for listening.

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