

From: Mary Cooper <marytod@btinternet.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 8:52 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds. Canadian farmer Percy Schmeiser came to the UK and told us how for 40 years he grew oilseed rape on his farm in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Usually, he would sow each year's crop with seeds saved. On 22 Jan 2008 ... he was sued by Monsanto for growing the firm's GM crops, which he claimed blew on to his land, he took Monsanto on and won.

Prices are rising at the supermarket, but farmers are struggling and big food companies have made record profits this year.

Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security. There is a need to change to organic sustainable agriculture, for human health and the environment.

Thanking you for your attention

Sincerely,

Mary Cooper.

Mary Cooper

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