From: Merideth Genin <yeseyesee@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:56 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. The food supply is far too important to be left in the greedy hands of a few corporations.

In particular, Monsanto has aggressively sought to control ALL the seed in the country (indeed, it wants to control all the seed in the world), and has ruthlessly pursued its agenda. This includes suing (and ruining) farmers whose crops were contaminated by "drift" from their genetically modified corn. Bt corn is killing monarch butterflies, and because it is untested, we do not know what other environmental havoc it may cause. The revolving door between the biotech industry and the regulators in government ensures their hegemony, and through CODEX they are seeking such dominance worldwide. Their practices have caused many small farmers in India to commit suicide.

I don't eat supermarket food. Whenever possible, I buy my organic produce from the farmers who raised it. When I can't, I make my purchases at a locally owned health food store. However, I see in my practice as a holistic health counselor that Americans are getting fatter and sicker. While this is not entirely the fault of Monsanto, they do share a large piece of the responsibility for the shrinking of the food supply.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment, and I wish you and yours health and peace.

Sincerely,

Merideth Genin

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