

From: Catherine Lee <jazzovation@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 1:46 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Break Up Monsanto's monopoly

I have been a vegetarian cook and gardener my whole adult life, and do activism around food issues as a poet.

I am gravely concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector, with Monsanto as perhaps the biggest offender. Monsanto's "Roundup Ready" soybeans have taken over 91% of the American crops grown as of July 2007 (It may be a higher percentage now, this information is not widely available to the public--trade secret, you know). Therefore it is a given fact that if a person does not limit their soy ingestion to organic soybeans, they are eating a GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GMO) bean that is doused with extra applications of Monsanto's Roundup pesticide. Soybean-derived ingredients can be found in most processed foods. Therefore the American consumer is the guinea pig who will exhibit toxic health effects from GMO food ingestion. Some animal studies have shown lethal effects on reproduction, organ size and weight, and more, see Jeffrey M. Smith's book Seeds of Deception, if you want documentation. Monsanto is fighting tooth and nail to make certain GMO ingredients are not labeled, because given a choice, people will avoid eating these potentially toxic pseudo-foods. Monsanto and other agribusinesses have a revolving door of employment with the government agencies charged with regulating them, so that minimal regulation has allowed them to become the monopolies they are today.

I beg you to apply antitrust regulations to Monsanto, to allow smaller food producers to supply Americans with pure food.

Catherine Lee

Hall of Mirrors Blues

1.

In an agribusiness hall of mirrors

No soy guinea pig am I

It's Texas but my protein choice is tofu

Fact: 91% of 2007 American soy crop is genetically modified, more now.

They have it at the local grocer

it's fairly cheap when not organic soy

that means Roundup-ready

I suppose they'd like that here but do they know?

A bean inserted with a gene that makes it mean

it stays alive when sprayed with pesticide

and rest of field done died. OK to eat? Implied

by comparison with God's grown,

agribusiness-funded studies haven't shown.

But it will pass unlabeled into eaters' bone.

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