

**From:** oca@aloosenation.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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Misha Cohen  
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December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I am particularly concerned about GMO in general as well as Monsanto's control over the seed supply in particular.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting seed strains, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This seems foolish for the people of the USA to allow. It is anti-competitive and skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a private company.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on chemicals they produce.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company seemingly wanting to produce only a few, pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their GMO seeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics. It is even possible to produce chemical dependence or "Terminator" technology that renders produced seeds sterile.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Misha Cohen  
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