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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I used to eat and still want to eat primarily organic food. But with the tough economic times, I cannot afford to and have been forced to eat more processed foods because they're cheaper and more readily available. When I eat processed foods, I don't feel well. Stomach aches, headaches, an occasional bout of diarrhea for starters. You may say, 'well, Linda, how can you claim it's from the food you ate? You're just speculating!'. One can only speculate because those who manufacture processed foods are not required to label their products as containing GMOs. If they were and a pattern of chronic disease was found to be associated with a certain ingredient, you could then definitively place the blame where appropriate. Studies from abroad have shown corn, soy and other GMO products to be unsafe, so why is no one in our government listening? Better yet, why aren't we doing the testing ourselves?

Think about it. Monsanto's Roundup kills everything but the GMO plant. EVERYTHING. Is this really something we should be ingesting? What on earth would possess the FDA to think that Monsanto, the company that was responsible for creating Agent Orange, DDT and PCBs as well as destroying lives by their deceit, would be capable of producing "good" food for us to eat? And without verification, no less.

I've read about how genetically modified foods are created and it's frightening. Blasting foreign genes into a plant cell via a carrier such as a virus or bacteria just so that the plant won't reject it. Is this in any way natural? Our digestive system isn't geared up for such assaults and either is our immune system. How can we, the United States of America, allow companies to patent life, to lay claim to GMO corn, for example, as a supposed food when that food is itself considered to be a pesticide?

When I saw Mrs. Obama planting her organic garden, I breathed a sigh of relief. But the administration is not following her lead. Mrs. Obama is an intelligent woman. There must be some concrete reasons why she wants her family to eat organic foods. And if non-organic, pesticide-laden, genetically-engineered food is just fine, why did President Obama seek out an organic restaurant when visiting New York City awhile back? There must be something to this. If it's worth his valuable time and deemed a necessity for his family, why should we be forced to eat anything less? If you really want to reduce the cost of healthcare and promote healthier lifestyles, why not give us the option of choosing healthier foods at reasonable prices, i.e., not sprayed or created in a lab? Give farm subsidies to organic farmers instead of GMO factory farms.

I've read stories of lawsuits that Monsanto has brought against farmers whose farms are located adjacent to one who has planted a Monsanto GM seed and when the seed has accidentally blown onto the innocent farmer's land, that farmer is sued by Monsanto for "stealing" Monsanto's seed. No one speaks of the fact that this farmer didn't want to use Monsanto's seed to begin with and now this farmer, whose livelihood may depend on the fact that he/she is supposed to be growing organic or at the very least non-GMO plants, has just lost his/her crop. And not only for this season, but perhaps for many years. Where is the justice in this?

There was a time when something was said to be made in America, it was the best the world could offer. Why are we allowing our good name to be besmirched? I go to the store and see carrots from France and think, 'Why? Aren't U.S. carrots good enough?'

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Linda Incardine

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