

From: cliffdev@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 4:03 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Cliff & Mary DeVries
2543 Makaulii Pl
Honolulu, HI 96816-3443

December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anticompetitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

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 their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

Representative of Monsanto, like the former CEO, have made it clear in interviews that they are interested in controlling the food supply for the entire world. Purchasing many seed companies and controlling the sale of seeds they are just beginning to do that. They can limit the seeds that

are sold and just offer those that have been genetically modified. They can then raise prices whenever they wish.

If the Monsanto has demonstrated responsibility to the farmers of the world, you would have to give the company the benefit of any doubt that we have with them. They however have demonstrated that they will do anything to increase their market share of seeds sold. Their GE Plants easily cross pollinate with nearby non GE plants and then they sue farmers even small farmers that are growing non GE plants for violating their seed patents. The sued farmers can avoid judgments against them only by buying Monsanto's seeds. This is extreme irresponsibility on Monsanto's part.

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,

Cliff & Mary DeVries
808 737-4421