

**From:** cmwhalen2001@yahoo.com  
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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment - Monsanto is Destroying Sustainable Agriculture, Please BAN Genetically Engineered Crops

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colleen whalen  
2519 C Street Apt 6  
Sacramento, CA 95816-3144

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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."

For 10 years, Monsanto has falsely stated that GMO/GE genetically engineered crops will eliminate world hunger. However, world hunger has not been reduced even by 1/2 of 1% during the 10 years that genetically engineered crops have been produced. Monsanto's genetically engineered crops have NOTHING to do with eliminating world hunger but everything to do with Monsanto having created complete hegemony over the entire global food supply. Monsanto doesn't care about solving world hunger, and I am appalled the USDA has been nothing more than a revolving door for ex-Monsanto top executives to be politically appointed to top USDA job positions. This is clearly an egregious conflict of interest identical to top Pentagon generals being hired by corrupt military hardware defense contractors. The whole system stinks, in fact - it stinks on ice.

The USDA should cease and desist having a revolving door hiring policy of ex-Monsanto executives being politically appointed with patronage jobs in top USDA executive jobs. I have serious doubts the USDA cares about public safety. Clearly, the USDA has no interest in food security, since genetically engineered crops are clearly a huge danger to our global food supply. The USDA and FDA have deliberately banned any substantive clinical research from being published for consumer information on GMO/GE crops.

I am also appalled the USDA and FDA have deliberately banned consumer warning labels on all genetically engineered food sold in America. 95% of conventionally grown corn in America is GMO - 80% of soy conventionally grown is GMO. Dozens of other food crops grown in America are GMO, yet the USDA and FDA has banned consumer alert warnings on groceries.

85% of all food sold in American supermarkets is genetically engineered and there are no consumer warning labels on supermarket groceries informing us that the food was grown from genetically engineered crops. The USDA and FDA deliberately want to keep American consumers ignorant about how our food is produced.

Monsanto bought up 90% of all seed companies in the entire world, beginning back in the early 1990's. Then Monsanto patented all of their genetically engineered seeds and force small, independent family farmers to pay ROYALTY FEES on copyrighted seeds. Since the beginning of agriculture over 10,000 years ago, farmers were always able to save seeds from their harvest and use those seeds for FREE to plant next season's crop.

Monsanto has now destroyed the ability of family farmers to save their seeds to plant another crop. Instead, our global food supply has literally been highjacked by Monsanto. Family farmers are forced to pay huge ROYALTY fees into perpetuity for life to Monsanto when the farmer plants genetically engineered seeds.

For organic farmers who do NOT WANT genetically engineered seeds contaminating their certified organic crops, it destroys organic farmers ability to sell their crop as certified organic - since well educated consumers of organically grown food are vehemently opposed to eating crops which have been contaminated by genetically engineered seeds.

Monsanto is ruthless and has sued independent family farmers, forcing them into bankruptcy - even when an organic farmer did NOT WANT their crops contaminated with genetically engineered seeds - but through "drift" and the wind blowing GMO seeds onto an organic farmers land. In these cases, Monsanto destroyed an organic farmers crop through contamination with GMO seeds, then tried to forcibly coerce the organic farmer to pay Monsanto "royalty fees" on copyrighted, patented genetically engineered seeds.

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 anti-competitive 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.

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,

colleen whalen  
916-448-7841