

**From:** sylviasage2001@yahoo.com  
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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

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

Monsanto terrifies me. Everything I've heard about this billion dollar industry is evil.

Consumers don't demand genetically modified food. Genetically modified foods have already exceeded the demand by consumers. Monsanto survives through deceit, luring farmers with promises of profit. Their food is mutated and dangerous.

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. They are not capable of improving upon evolution or God's creation, but they can lie about it.

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 mutated seeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and reducing our rights to consume safe food.

The demand for organic food exceeds the supply. The supply of genetically altered food exceeds the demand. Monsanto doesn't rely upon consumer demand for its success. It relies upon deceit and manipulation for its success.

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,

Sylvia Sage