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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:34 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

? What's in our food, anyway? And why aren't there decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified?

? There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

? Prices are rising at the supermarket, but you've heard that farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year.

? Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security.

It is extremely important to note that the US models of agriculture are playing a major role in what happens in Third World or developing Countries. This is clearly evident in India where I work with NGOs who in turn work with small scale sustainable farmers. They really need a boost from seeing what is happening in the US as more and more people are supporting small family farmers. WE need to provide viable models for world-wide food security, not models that can only profit the well-to-do.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mencher

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