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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 10:18 PM
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:

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."

Monsanto is the epitome of corporate greed and power. They openly admit they want to control the world's food supply. This is unconscionable. More government oversight is needed for this behemoth and more independent testing needs to be done of their products, instead of blindly accepting Monsanto's own study results - which have proven to be slanted.

The gospel according to Monsanto is that their patented GM seeds and their bovine growth hormone (BGH) will increase worldwide production of agricultural, dairy and meat products and Bt cotton to the extent that worldwide hunger and poverty will be eradicated.

The actual truth is rather the opposite. GMOs are creating serious damage all over the world and artificial BGH injection in cows cause numerous health problems, and even death.

Monsanto is not held back by any considerations of ethics and it hides the reality of its sordid machinations behind a wall of secrecy. Everything Monsanto does is exclusively with the intent of increasing its own profit. If left to its own devices it will most certainly destroy the livelihood of millions of farmers - a process begun a decade ago in India and certainly in many other countries as well. The planet's ecosystems will be seriously threatened by unnatural ways of changing agricultural patterns.

I am concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. They have spent billions to engineer crops that do not increase yields nor have drought tolerance, etc. But are only resistant to their own RoundUp product. Because of increased weed tolerance, farmers need many times more of the product to control weeds. This is a toxic chemical, it does not break down as quickly as Monsanto claims (another reason for independent studies) and is a persistent toxin in the soil.

With GE, Monsanto have unfairly targeted organic farmers who suffer from pollen drift to their own organic crops thru no fault of their own. When

the Monsanto 'cops' find GE contaminated crops on such land, they have a reputation for bringing to bear their huge resources to financially break small and mid size farmers.

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,

Kathy Denison
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