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**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 11:52 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on Monsanto farming and patent practices

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Thank you for taking the time to investigate possible anti-competitive activities by the Monsanto Company. I am not a farmer, just a consumer, but I am very concerned about the repercussions of Monsanto's business practices.

Monsanto is positioning itself, through its growing dominance of seed sales, to completely control all food production in America. While it is true that many farmers choose Monsanto seeds because of their pesticide-resistant qualities, this does not change the fact that the growth of Monsanto is leading to a huge decrease in crop biodiversity. This could leave the vast majority of Americans dependent on one company for one of life's fundamental necessities.

As an organic consumer, I am 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.

Thank you,  
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