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Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 12:38 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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December 19, 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."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. Last year on my birthday I attended a fundraiser for the farmers in India who brought into Monsanto's lies and were devastated by the poor yields. Many of them drank pesticide to commit suicide because their small farms were unable to feed their families. Monsanto, among others, makes many claims about their seeds that are untrue. They (the specially treated-GM-seeds) do not handle adverse conditions well, and anyone who has ever been on a farm understands that adverse weather conditions happen regularly. There have been numerous accounts of crops failing that were planted with these seeds... the absolutely only advantage to these seeds over any others is they can resist huge doses of pesticides... the goals of producing high yields seems to have been forgotten except in their sales-pitch. These companies are buying up all the small seed companies and gaining a monopoly over our food supply. When they have destroyed everything, who will be able to find a way to feed the people in the world... that includes here in the USA? I don't have any personal gripe against GE or irradiated foods, but unless these foodstuffs are labelled, there is no accountability. When Monsanto goes bankrupt because they've destroyed the food supply, will the government bail them out? I hope not. Please, rein them in before it is too late.

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,

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