

From: Sylvia Morrison <sylviamrsn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 9:22 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Monsanto

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a parent, and I am very concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector.

As a parent, I strive to feed my youngster the freshest and least processed foods that I can find at a reasonable price. However, when I go to the supermarket, the prices of produce keeps going up and the quality of this food is not great. I understand that many of these foods are processed in large centralized warehouses. By the time this food gets to my house, it sometimes start to spoil very quickly. Also, where produce and meats are delayed at these centralized facilities, the quality and freshness of these foods is compromised. I am concerned for the safety of my family and that they might be exposed to bacteria like eColi. These bacterial outbreaks seem to be happening more often in the past few years. The safety of the food I put on my table for my family should not be compromised by companies like Monsanto. I feel powerless to think that I could be feeding my baby something that contains life threatening bacteria.

I am also concerned that these big companies like Monsanto are putting small farmers out of business. My local farmers market this year had a lot less stands than previous years. Many of our local farmers are being shut out of business because they can't compete with large corporations like Monsanto. As a consumer, I want to ensure these smaller farms can stay in business. These small farms help our local economy and I also have better food choices for my family at farmer's markets and local produce stands.

These large corporations are taking over our food and agriculture sector in the U.S. consumers like me are paying the price. Companies like Monsanto need to be investigated and reviewed. We need better restrictions and processes to ensure companies like Monsanto do not put our small farmers out of business. I hope something can be done to halt these unfair business practices.

Thank you for taking time to read my e-mail.

Best Regards,
Sylvia