

**From:** yellowleaf@sbcglobal.net  
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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Scientific Method at risk

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As the percentages of modified, patented seeds increases, scientists are unable to perform peer-review on the effects of these new seeds on the public. This is an affront to the scientific method which has laboriously been created over hundreds of years to document UNBIASED information about experiments. If scientists cannot independently confirm the safety and efficacy of these seeds, then we are at risk. This risk is perpetrated upon the public solely so one company can profit.

Consequently, the public now are unwilling participants in the largest experiment of all time. Should we find dangers in these seeds in the long run, each and every member of the population will be affected by the genetic modifications. On the other hand, if proper peer-review processes were used, many dangers could be prevented.

Many lessons from the past should instruct us upon the present dangers of limiting seed varieties: the Irish potato famine first and foremost.

"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,

Jeanette Powers