From: Gayathri Ramanathan <gayathrir1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 6:44 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

? Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

? What's in our food, anyway? And why aren't there decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified?

? There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

? Prices are rising at the supermarket, but you've heard that farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year.

? Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security. Our industrial food production methods, pushed by companies like Monsato, also has made everything unsafe - Spinach, peanuts, lettuce etc.

I shouldn't have to pay a good portion of my paycheck to buy decent organically raised crops.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Gayathri Ramanathan

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