From: majidaval@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 6:48 PM
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:

Dear Justices:

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

Monsanto is buying seed companies and placing patents on genetic strains. This one company has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics.
They patent strains that will not produce seed in the mature plant. This prevents farmers and individuals who are growing their own food from saving seed on their own for next years crop as humans have done since the dawn of agriculture.

This also nesessitates seed purchases from Monsanto every single year. Monsantos genetically modified strains have been polluting organic farms. Monsanto has even been known to sue farmers who are unlucky enough to be downwind from these gmo crops. How could this be? The farmers organic crops have been polluted by Monsantos genetically modified pollen and Monsanto is suing the farmer?. Yes you read this right. They sued the farmer for growing their gmo strain when it was Monsantos pollens thaty caused the problem in the first place.

With Monsanto owning everything, farmers and all those who eat their food are then subjected to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will. This is a life or death matter to all people.

another huge 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.

People have the right to grow all food crops without interference from profit making corporations.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their seed 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.

If these, most important life saving concerns arent enough then the idea that one overblown profit making corporation owns 90% of our food source should.

Sincerely,

Valerie Barber