

From: davideit@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 6:58 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment on Monsanto

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December 19, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As an organic consumer, I resent Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By acquiring seed companies and aggressively creating patents, Monsanto controls nearly 90 percent of seed genetics. This monopolistic behavior negatively affects markets and allows the company to raise prices at will.

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 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.

Just as 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 eliminating them.

Please consider the importance of keeping seeds in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Dennis Davideit