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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

YOU CAN'T PATENT NATURE unless its un-natural. No company should be allowed a monopoly on the world's food supply! What happened to Anti-Trust and RICO enforcement ???

I wish to comment in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I have folloowed Monsanto's efforts worldwide to obtain 100% ownership of EVERY PLANT genetic material it can. WHAT HAPPENED TO "YOU CAN'T PATENT NATURE!.

Of Particular concern is Monsanto's policy to only release GMO seeds that are "round up ready" AND sterile; holding all other stock from public domain.

These plants do indeed require less spraying during their growth cycle but they also disrupt nature; bees, butterflies and other pollinators. These plants are less nutritious AND they are sterile, No seed stock for next year.

Please check the studies in 3rd world countries where Monsanto has been dupping farmers into using their GMO seed for several years now. These same farmers eagerly planted these on the promise of higher yield and less tending.

Now, these same farmers are bankrupt; no seed stock from year to year, no higher yield (its actually less) and their pollinating insects are on the decline (what happened to the honey bees!) Monsanto wants every seed in the world to generate income to Monsanto. Hey, nobody gets everything ! 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 while controlling the world food supply!

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 of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

mel bird