

From: Rosemary Bak <rosemarybak@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 2:05 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am a small farmer in Hawaii and I am writing with concern about a few large companies controlling most of our food.

Monsanto is one of the biggest agribusiness in the US and they have some practices which are of concern to me and many other citizens. It is disturbing that Monsanto controls the majority of seeds in the US and can threaten farmers who do not buy their seeds.

Monsanto can sue anyone including other farmers who have their genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their fields. Considering that seeds and plants are grown in an open environment and can spread through wind, birds, water, animals, humans, and transportation, this becomes a tool for oppression of any farmer or individual located near a Monsanto farm. A seed or plant could blow onto your field and suddenly your small farm is out of business because you are sued by Monsanto for possession of their seeds or plants.

As citizens it is appalling that we are not informed on the food we buy and eat, what chemicals were used to produce a given crop and if any organism has been genetically modified.

How can it be that farmers are struggling to get by and Monsanto is making record profits? They do not treat farmers well or equitably.

As a farmer concerned for the future of our planet and making it sustainable for humanity, Large agribusinesses like Monsanto need to find less polluting and damaging ways of growing food.

I Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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