

**From:** honey4086@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 11:48 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment - Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement

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December 20, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As an environmental scientist and organic consumer, I wish to comment in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply, it's manipulation of genes to make plants resistant to Monsanto agricultural chemicals and the contamination of organically grown plant species.

Monsanto's control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics is obviously a monopoly that needs to be dismantled, one that is already subjecting farmers and consumers worldwide to the company's control. Further, despite having acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, Monsanto releases largely those that are genetically modified to survive increased pesticide use; pesticides produced of course by Monsanto. There have already been instances of undesired cross-pollination with organic and traditional plants, with one farmer having been held responsible to Monsanto for his crops contamination. In third world countries, Monsanto's rendering seeds sterile is destroying indigenous agriculture and driving farmers into bankruptcy.

I urge you to carefully consider the importance of protecting the agricultural free market, the growing organic sector and a diverse food supply. Rather than allowing companies intent on controlling the world's agriculture and enhancing profits through the increased use of toxic agricultural chemicals, we must place seeds back in the public domain where they had been for thousands of years and should have remained.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gross