

**From:** Jonathan Irwin <jonathan.irwin@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2009 1:15 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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The village stands, watching in awed silence. Flames dance as seed & dry vegetable matter burst into flames. The field is burning!

Such scenes are becoming more and more frequent as poor farmers in India, the United States, & other countries--developed and developing--realize the trap they find themselves in--a trap built by Monsanto and sprung by its lawyers & the corrupt oversight regulatory agencies. Monsanto, & a VERY few other companies control and legally OWN a growing majority of the world's crops--down to their very genetic code.

While Monsanto may tout its commitment to provide increased productivity for the hungry, the genetic alterations in their seeds prevents those hungry from feeding themselves or their communities without buying more seed from Monsanto. Even more dangerous, Monsanto is known to intentionally spread their GM crops to neighboring cropland & retroactively steal farmers' crops.

Where is my relationship to these crimes?

I am a consumer, who must choose to live off of this abuse of farmers--the crux of survival for the people of the United States & the entire planet.

I must struggle to find money for rising food costs--price raising which does NOT go to feed hungry farmers or bail them out in economic troubles, but instead to corporate giants like Monsanto and the conglomerate farms born from Monsanto's theft & sale of family farms.

I must guess at which foods I buy may contain genetic alterations with unknown & unregulated health effects--already being felt--and whose long-term costs will not be known until my generation is old (I am 23).

I can only hope that there will be a next generation, since agro-giants like Monsanto & its business partners emit more water, air, & soil pollutants than have ever been seen in our lands & soaring CO2 emissions from their pesticide-resistant fields & operations threaten the entire planet.

I do not anticipate, with a single email, that I will sway your department to end this destruction or hold its perpetrators accountable. But should you not act immediately, you are digging your grave & your childrens' as surely as you dig mine.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Irwin

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