

**From:** digdeep@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 24, 2009 7:08 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Monsanto's devious practices endangers plant diversity

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December 24, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. 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.

Monsanto's virulent focus has even corrupted courts into ruling in Monsanto's favor despite overwhelming evidence that it was Monsanto's plant substances that contaminated adjacent crops.

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

Sincerely,

Mark Nakamoto