

**From:** Christina Mendrinios <ferret455@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 24, 2009 7:59 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. Monsanto and other agribusiness corporations control the seeds to our food. Farmers have to buy the Monsanto seeds that go with the Monsanto pesticides, fertilizers, etc. Farmers shouldn't be held hostage to Monsanto's seeds and control of the market. Farmers, in this deflationary depression, see the price of their product go down, but they can't cut costs because they have to buy the Monsanto products.

Monsanto also has lobbyists, most of whom are former government officials, to push for GMO seeds to be labeled as "organic." We do not know the health consequences of these seeds, or their effect on the habitat around them. The USDA organic label is not being held to the standards it should, and with little wonder. The lobbyists and the government officials are interchangeable.

We need to support organic farming, and Monsanto is a big part of the reason farmers and the environment are doing poorly. It doesn't help that Siddiqi (sp?) and other Monsanto supporters/scientists are being appointed to government positions. When the Monsanto seeds are found to be harmful to humans, will there be an alternative crop? Not if Monsanto has its way.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Christina Mendrinios

Christina Mendrinios

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