

**From:** oldfarm@pcisys.net  
**Sent:** Friday, December 25, 2009 8:13 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

---

Laura Meade  
5007 Shoshone Dr  
Pensacola, FL 32507-8709

December 25, 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."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

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.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

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.

Where is democracy when US citizens have not been informed of what is happening to our food supply? We have not been allowed to vote on whether GMO's are safe to pursue. Consumers are largely unaware that GMO products are on grocery shelves without being required to label them as GMO products. Good scientific research indicating detrimental effects of GMO's has been stifled, so that GMO organisms and Monsanto may continue with their global greed and terrorism of our food supply.

Mistakes happen. Mistakes are not a crime unless they harm others and are not corrected. It was a major mistake to allow Monsanto to patent genetically altered seeds. It is a mistake to allow patenting of ANY seeds. This mistake threatens not only US citizens, but all people worldwide. Countries have had their seeds contaminated by Monsanto's GMO pesticide-hungry seeds and this contamination cannot be contained. Monsanto and the US Govt. by allowing GMO patenting are both clearly liable for contamination of many countries' pure seed stocks because the GMO seeds cannot be contained. US and Canadian farmers have been terrorized and financially penalized by Monsanto when the farmers have done no wrong. It is Monsanto who has not contained their contamination. Liability falls to Monsanto for contamination, not to the farmer who has suffered Monsanto's contamination of fields. Monsanto's patents should ALL be revoked and Monsanto should re-pay all farmers from whom they have collected fines. Additionally, Monsanto owes farmers punitive damages for the intimidation and suffering they've caused farmers.

Most US citizens hear frequently about Global warming. It seems most are totally unaware of what is happening to their food supply right before their eyes.

Please investigate what Monsanto is doing. We need to step back as a nation, look at the truth of scientific research on GMO's and realize the horrendous dangers we are already reaping in the US and criminally causing to populations around the world by the mistaken decision to allow patenting of GMO's.

Please do whatever it takes to revoke these patents and do whatever can be done to eradicate GMO's from the world's agriculture.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura Meade