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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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December 29, 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.

If you would consult India, you would find out how Monsanto's is indirectly responsible for the suicide of "many" India farmers. These farmers were convinced to buy these Monsanto's seeds. What happened! The farmers are poor first of all and not well educated. They were heavily convinced to buy Monsanto's seeds. They don't understand about propaganda. However, problems resulted. Here's the list, 1. they weren't able to buy the pesticides needed for the seeds, because it cost too much. 2. They were accustomed to using the seeds from their first crop for further crops and they found it didn't work. 3. They needed other equipment and they didn't have money for it. As a result they went into debt, so severe that they were either losing their land or going bankrupt. Farmers are (for it is still going on) going out of their minds. And as a result committed suicide. The India gov't has stepped in. Recommending organic farming, organic seed, companion planting, and plants unique to India and the like. But Monsanto's, on the other hand, is going after farmers and using its persuasion. How many more farmers will die due to our so called modernization. Please, let the world exist the way it was meant to. What man creates is NOT always better than what nature created.

Sincerely,

Sharon and Len plus Anne & Bob Wojno and Bresslers

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