

From: Megan Beach <mebeach@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 3:41 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. Because of their patents, Monsanto controls an unjust majority of the seeds in the US. This, paired with Monsanto's pesticide/herbicide developments which effectively require farmers who use Monsanto's seeds to use Monsanto's chemicals is unjust, and in my mind constitutes a monopoly.

Cross-pollination by Monsanto's GMO (Genetically Modified) crops with other farmers' crops forces farmers to grow GMO food against their will. Many organic farmers have lost organic certification because of this, and have also been sued by Monsanto for "using" their patented seed. As someone who prefers organic food and sustainable agriculture, I am outraged this has been allowed to happen. I am loosing my ability to choose the foods I wish to purchase.

I, and many other people, am opposed to genetic modification of food because its long-term health effects have not been determined, however GMO foods do not require labeling. I believe that consumers should have the right to choose whether or not to purchase GMO food. It is my opinion, based on much research, that GMO is not labeled because many agricultural officials are former employees/executives of Monsanto and are too strongly rooted in the corporation's company culture. That company culture places more emphasis on profit for Monsanto than the safety and well-being of the consumer.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Megan Beach

Megan Beach

, 86001