

From: jemman1@juno.com <"jemman1@juno.com">
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 11:46 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Legal Policy Section, Antitrust Division, Argribusiness

Legal Policy Section
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW
Suite 11700
Washington, D.C. 20001.

To Whom This Concerns:

I am writing to express my concern with the policies of Monsanto to control agricultural practices, not only here in the United States where we do have some checks and balances, and abroad where nations often lack the funds or the will power to stop corporate influence.

Before I began a career as a professional gardener in a public garden 30 years ago, I remember driving out to the end of Long Island on summer days and smelling the stringent odor caused by the potato farmers spreading Temic, a recommended pesticide. The tubers stored the pesticide, and any insect eating the leaves of the potato vine were killed. What wasn't realized was that the systemic was getting into the ground water, as well as being consumed by everyone eating potatoes. I believe it was banned by US government many years ago, though still produced by Bayer..

Now those were the old days, but the mind set hasn't changed. Big businesses like Bayer and Monsanto are always looking for that miracle potion that will do anything to kill pests and predators and to increase out put. Today Monsanto is cornering the market for seed production through patented seeds. This seed must be bought from the manufacturer every year since the plants they produce bare sterile seed. Corporate farmers can afford to buy seed year after year; small farmers cannot. For farmers in Third World nations this production method is impossible. Since the beginning of time, farmers have always garnered their own seed where possible, buying seed to supplement their stock or to try out new varieties.

These seeds are important to Monsanto because the germinated plants resist not only insects but the herbicides Monsanto promotes. Through Monsanto's vast advertising, the farmer is induced to buy Monsanto herbicides which are spread beneath the growing crop to prevent weeds. As a result, additional pesticides and herbicides filter into groundwater and into rivers. The genetically altered plants, such a corn and soy, cross-pollinate with natural varieties in adjacent fields, which either become sterile or begin to possess the characteristics of the modified crop, contributing to the destruction of original varieties. There is no telling where this will lead.

With such questions still unanswered and Monsanto leading the charge to corner the production of sterile seed and an array of weed controls that can be grown with their resistant varieties of plants, I ask that you please investigate every aspect of Monsanto's practices from advertising to research and manufacture.

Sincerely,
John Emmanuel
72 Park Terrace West, E38
New York, NY 10034