

**From:** Frederick Dowd <fdowd@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2009 12:29 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about how Monsanto is affecting the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Monsanto has predatory anti-competitive practices with family farmers. The nature of pollinated plants is for genetic material to spread naturally and randomly. Monsanto is taking advantage of that by claiming ownership of wherever their patented genetic material lands. That is, or should be, an illegal taking. Their product is prevalent enough that their genetic material may soon be universally distributed, which would allow them, using their current litigation strategy, to claim ownership of the entire food supply for the crops for which they have patents.

Monsanto's genetically modified seeds are an engineered product, like a drug, and should be subject to the same FDA approval process for safety. Monsanto claims that their genetically modified seeds are not different enough from natural seeds to need approval. If that is true, then they should not be different enough to be patented.

Sincerely,  
Frederick Dowd

Frederick Dowd

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