

From: Vincent Vignaly <VINCENT.VIGNALY@STATE.MA.US>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 10:38 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am concerned with the Big-Business system of agriculture that is controlling the US and international markets.

The major concern is the lack of competition in agricultural markets, and the pressure these few large corporations apply to smaller family-oriented operations.

Examples of these include the following:

The control of heirloom seeds in the US, and other countries that do not require annual purchases of seeds and the threatening of farmers who don't buy its seeds.

The lack of decent labels and the underlying quality assurance standards to insure free correct information such as where it was grown, what chemicals were used and are on it, and if it contains genetically modified ingredients.

The continuing "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators.

The lack of established standards for truly sustainable agricultural practices in the US and world-wide.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Vincent Vignaly

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