

From: kdharridan@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 12:23 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Concerned about Monsanto's monopoly

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As an organic (and conventional) consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply. This is an important topic to me as a middle-class consumer and home garden tender.

- 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. Farmers are forced to buy from just one manufacturer in order to stay in business at all.
- Monsanto has engineered seeds that can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence
- 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.
- "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding. What if this lays extinct conventional food supplies? The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties.

WHAT TO DO: I urge you to please represent me and many other Americans in the importance of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, in the public domain.

Kind Regards

Kathleen Henderson