

From: Rachel Freifelder <handmadegardenspdx@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2009 12:20 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about corporate control of our food and hunger here in the US as well as worldwide.

I am the Garden Educator at Rigler K-8 School in Portland, Oregon. Rigler's students are primarily very low-income; 89% of our students qualify for free or reduced-priced school lunch. Children in my after-school classes love the vegetables we grow and prepare, but many of them tell me they never get fresh vegetables at home. When their parents pick them up from the class, they often take home vegetables from the school garden, telling me they cannot afford the prices at the supermarket for anything fresh. Some of these parents work multiple jobs just to keep the rent paid.

Why do ads by Monsanto and other huge agribusiness companies claim that they are feeding the world when these parents cannot afford to feed their children?

I know enough small farmers to know they are not the ones pocketing the profit - they are also struggling to survive. Where is that money going? Someone is doing well, but it's not the folks I know, and it's not by doing good.

Meanwhile, subsistence farmers in Mexico are losing their crops as pollen from GM corn reduces their yields. Farmers in India who have grown their own seed for generations are suddenly unable to save seed.

I see rich folks getting richer and poor folks getting hungrier. It's time for some of those resources to come back to where they are most needed. It's time for some Justice, Department of Justice.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rachel Freifelder
Garden Educator
Rigler K-8 School
Portland, Oregon

Rachel Freifelder

, 97218