

WANTED: Monsanto for crimes against the planet

Hendrik A. Verfaillie and Monsanto are wanted for crimes of genetic pollution 24

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Johannesburg, South Africa — Long time corporate scoundrels Monsanto are WANTED for their crimes against the planet. It started innocently enough with the production of Agent Orange for military use in Vietnam. Then came PCBs and Dioxin. Now they are after our food. Their goal: global food supply domination.

The environmental criminal: Monsanto is wanted for questioning in relation to the genetic pollution of the planet Earth, force feeding global citizens genetically engineered foods and the global take over of the planet's food sources.

It is armed with the arrogant belief that genetic engineering is safe, both for the environment and human health. Monsanto is the same company that brought us such safe, healthy products as Agent Orange and PCBs.

The accomplice: The US and Canadian governments not only ignored the inherent risks of genetic engineering, they have aided Monsanto setting up an inadequate regulatory system that relies on risk assessment, industry science and voluntary compliance.

The environmental crime: As if polluting the planet with noxious PCBs, dioxins and harmful pesticides wasn't enough, now this leader in the genetic engineering industry is threatening to alter the genes of every food crop on Earth.

Monsanto's Robert Fraley testified: "What you are seeing is not just a consolidation of seed companies, it's really a consolidation of the entire food chain."

Through a spending spree of billions of US dollars acquiring seed companies around the world and the contamination of the global food chain with GE crops, Monsanto's diabolical plan of global food take over may soon be a reality.

But since meeting resistance from people in developed nations, Monsanto has turned its focus to developing nations. They claim that they can help meet the world's growing food needs and feed the hungry. But they ignore the fact that most hungry people live in countries that have food surpluses rather than deficits.

Innovative, environmentally responsible farming practices are already in the ground, offering food security and sustainable livelihoods without drawing farmers into more dependency, threatening biodiversity or endangering human health. Food security, the ability of a community to feed itself consistently on a diverse and healthy diet, is a complex problem that will not be solved overnight, it depends on people having access to land and money. Monsanto is offering neither.

And why should we believe that this move to sell genetically engineered crops to developing nations to help them with hunger and malnutrition comes from the goodness of their hearts. If their

relationship with farmers in developed nations is any indication, farmers in the developing world will be trampled by the coercion and censorship tactics of this agriculture bully.

Monsanto promotes a farming model of snooping and snitching on your neighbours. The company employs a small army of private investigators to check up on farmers and advertises a toll-free informer line. They have tried to censor journalists questioning the safety of Monsanto's bovine growth hormone and stop the printers of the Ecologist from publishing a special edition attacking Monsanto.

Instead Monsanto spends millions on public relations campaigns of misinformation and warm fuzzy feelings.

The victim: Percy Schmeiser is a farmer from the prairie food belt of Canada. His canola fields were contaminated with Monsanto's Round-Up Ready canola seed. Monsanto's position is that it doesn't matter whether Percy knew it or not, his canola field was contaminated with the Roundup Ready gene and he must pay their technology fee. Percy and his wife Louise stood up to Monsanto in a classic battle of good versus evil, David versus Goliath, but in this round it was Monsanto that won out in the Canadian court battle. Percy is appealing.

Monsanto quotes Gandhi "we must be the change we wish to see in the world" in their propaganda. But it was Percy who received the Mahatma Gandhi Award while he was in India in October 2000. The award is given in recognition of working for the betterment and good of humankind in a non-violent way.

[Listen to Percy's story>>](#)

The verdict: Oh so guilty, their arrest is overdue. Monsanto has already polluted every corner of the planet with PCBs and dioxin, they must be held accountable before all crops and genetic resources on the planet are contaminated and our food supply forever under their control.

The US and Canadian governments must hold Monsanto accountable for their crimes against the environment and the global food supply. World governments need to agree on legally binding rules for corporations that hold them responsible for the actions next week at the Earth Summit.

The Reward: A safe and secure global food supply, a healthy environment and the chance to properly tackle the inadequate distribution of food to the world's hungry.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto-are-wanted-for-crimes#>