

# Monsanto

Author: Lucy Sharratt<info@cban.ca><divclass="object-left"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-image"><p><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/media/images/stop-monsanto-button2/6177-1-eng-CA/stop-Monsanto-button\_small.jpg"width="100"height="101"style="border:0px;"alt="stopMonsantobutton"title="stopMonsantobutton"/></p></div></div></div></div><divclass="object-right"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-image"><p><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/media/images/students-greet-the-president-of-monsanto-canada-testifying-at-agriculture-committee-hearings-in-guelph/6903-1-eng-CA/Students-greet-the-President-of-Monsanto-Canada-testifying-at-Agriculture-Committee-hearings-in-Guelph\_medium.jpg"width="200"height="150"style="border:0px;"alt="StudentsgreetthePresidentofMonsantoCanadatestifyingatAgricultureCommitteehearingsinGuelph"title="StudentsgreetthePresidentofMonsantoCanadatestifyingatAgricultureCommitteehearingsinGuelph"/></p></div><divclass="attribute-caption"style="width:200px"><p>StudentsgreetthePresidentofMonsantoCanadatestifyingatAgricultureCommitteehearingsinGuelph, Feb9, dayofthevoteonBillC-474.</p></div></div></div></div><aname="eztoc2349\_1" id="eztoc2349\_1"></a><h2>Monsanto QuickFacts</h2><p>Monsanto</p><p>?isthelargestseedcompanyintheworld(accountedfor23%oftheworld?scommercialseedmarketin2007).(ETCGroup)<br/>?Ownstheeedplantedonapproximately90%oftheGECropacresintheworld<br/>?SellsthetopsellingglobalherbicideRoundup(glyphosate).<br/>?OwnsthepatentandresearchonTerminatortechnology(MonsantoboughtDelta&PineLandin2006)-Terminatorseedsaregeneticallyengineeredtobesterileafterfirsharvesttostopfarmersfromsavingandreseedingseed.<br/>?Monsantonowaccountsforover57%oftheUSScottonseedmarket.(ETCGroup)</p><aname="eztoc2349\_2" id="eztoc2349\_2"></a><h2>Risks of Monsanto's SmartStax Eight-Trait GM Corn Remain Unexamined</h2><p>June 28, 2011 - Press Release: <a href="http://www.cban.ca/Press/Press-Releases/Report-Exposes-Unstudied-Risks-of-Monsanto-s-Genetically-Modified-SmartStax-Corn" target="\_self">Report Exposes Unstudied Risks of Monsanto's Genetically Modified "Smart Stax" Corn: EU Member State critiques and leaked industry documents reveals safety questions</a></p><p><b>Background:</b></p><p></p><ul><li><a href="http://www.cban.ca/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Comments-from-European-Union-Member-States-on-SmartStax-Corn" target="\_self">Selected Comments from EU Member States and Listing of Studies Recommended</a></li><li><a href="http://www.cban.ca/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn/Selected-Comments-from-EU-Member-States-on-SmartStax-corn-risk-assessment" target="\_self">Summary and Background on SmartStax corn and risk questions, CBAN.</a></li></ul><aname="eztoc2349\_3" id="eztoc2349\_3"></a><h2>Health Effects of Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup</h2><p>From the <a href="http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/Herbicide-tolerance-and-GM-crops/" target="\_self">Greenpeace International Report July 2011: Herbicide tolerance and GM crops</a><br/>Glyphosate is the active ingredient in many herbicides sold across the world, including Monsanto's formulation brand "Roundup" which is twin with its GM Roundup Ready crops.</p><p>Independent scientific studies are underscoring the call for an urgent reassessment of glyphosate and its related products. These studies associate exposure to glyphosate with a number of negative effects on human and animal health, including long term or chronic effects:</p><ul><li>Birth defects in the Argentinean state of Chaco, where GM soya and rice crops are heavily sprayed with glyphosate, increased nearly four fold over the years 2000 to 2009. Similar defects were also found in a woman from Paraguay exposed to glyphosate-based herbicides during pregnancy. These defects were compatible with those induced in laboratory experiments at much lower concentration than normal commercial glyphosate concentrations.</li><li>Glyphosate is a suspected endocrine disruptor. This means it could disrupt production of vital reproductive hormones, such as progesterone and oestrogen. Published studies demonstrate various endocrine effects in animals and human cells associated with glyphosate.</li><li>Studies of illness patterns in human populations (epidemiological studies) have linked glyphosate exposure to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (a type of blood cancer) whilst laboratory studies have confirmed that glyphosate can

d/orits associated products exhibit characteristic typical of cancer causing agents (i.e. genotoxicity or mutagenicity) in animals and both human and animal. Together, these studies suggest that glyphosate may contribute to cancer. Evidence that glyphosate may also affect the nervous system and may even be implicated in Parkinson's disease.

**June 2011:** [Roundup and birth defects: Is the public being kept in the dark?](#) Roundup and birth defects: Is the public being kept in the dark? Thereport concludes that industry and European regulators sknew as long ago as the 1980s-1990s that Roundup, the world's best selling herbicide, causes birth defects but they failed to inform the public. Authored by a group of international scientists and researchers. Published: Earth Open Source, June 2011. The report shows:

- Industry (including Monsanto) has known from its own studies since the 1980s that glyphosate causes malformations in experimental animals at high doses.
- Industry has known since 1993 that these effects also occur at lower and mid doses.
- The German government has known since at least 1998 that glyphosate causes malformations.
- The EU Commission's expert scientific review panel knew in 1999 that glyphosate causes malformations.
- The EU Commission has known since 2002 that glyphosate causes malformations. This was the year it signed off on the current approval of glyphosate.

**Lawsuit Filed: Farmers vs. Monsanto**

**March 29, 2011:** Today over 60 family farmers, seed businesses and organic agricultural organizations in Canada and the US, including Mumm's Sprouting Seeds Ltd. of Parkside Saskatchewan in Canada, filed a lawsuit against Monsanto Company to challenge the chemical giant's patents on genetically modified (GM) seed. The plaintiffs were forced to sue preemptively to protect themselves from being accused of patent infringement should they ever become contaminated by Monsanto's GM seed.

[Press Release: Farmers and Seed Distributors Sue Monsanto to Protect Themselves from Patents on Genetically Modified Seed](#), March 30, 2011: Farmers and Seed Distributors Sue Monsanto to Protect Themselves from Patents on GM Seed

[Arguments filed: Court case document](#)

**Monsanto's Falling Fortunes**

**October 2010:** In 2008, Monsanto's stock peaked at around \$140 a share. Since the beginning of 2010 however Monsanto's shares have fallen 42% and on October 4 2010 the company's stocks were worth \$47.77. Monsanto has abandoned its profit goal for 2012.

**Haiti's Farmers Reject Monsanto's Seed "Donation"**

10,000 Haitian peasant farmers marched Friday June 4, 2010 to protest Monsanto's donation of hybrid corn and vegetable seeds.



10,000 farmers in Haiti march, June 4, 2010



Press Conference at Solidarity Action in Montreal, June 4, 2010

Solidarity actions were called for by the Haitian Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP) and supported by La Via Campesina.

Chavannes Jean-

Baptist of the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP) in Haiti called Monsanto's donation a new earthquake. MPP called on all of Haiti's farmersto burn Monsanto's seeds. If people start sending hybrid seeds that's the end of Haitian agriculture, said Chavannes.

Sofar, Monsanto has said that the donated corn seeds are not genetically modified but are hybrids, which means that they may not be suitable for replanting in the subsequent seasons. By cultivating Monsanto's corn, Haitian peasant farmers will be forced to make annual purchases of seeds.

After the earthquake, much of Haiti's seed stocks were used to help feed people who fled to rural areas from devastated towns and cities. In a message to Haitian farmers, Chavannes said, Monsanto is taking advantage of the earthquake to open the country's doors to this powerful company. We cannot accept this.

Order your button today!

**Press Release June 3:** Haitian Farmers Say? Burn Monsanto's Seeds? Canadian group support Haitian rejection of Monsanto's seed donation

Read the call for solidarity from the Haitian peasant movement

<http://www.truthout.org/haitian-farmers-commit-burning-monsanto-hybrid-seeds59616> Read the article about what Haiti's peasant leaders are saying

[http://www.monsanto.com/features/helping\\_haitian\\_farmers.asp?WT.svl=1](http://www.monsanto.com/features/helping_haitian_farmers.asp?WT.svl=1) Read what Monsanto says about their "donation"

**Take Action**

**New!** You can now order your "Stop Monsanto" buttons! For your charitable donation of \$25 you can order "Stop Monsanto" buttons. Order by contacting Lucy Sharratt coordinator@cbn.ca 613 241 2267 ext 6

Or make your donation right now!

**Other News**

**November 23, 2010:** University students protest new \$12 million Monsanto Canada Breeding Centre at the University of Manitoba. **Press Release:**

Saying No to Monsanto in Manitoba

**July 2010: Monsanto joins BASF for GM wheat development:** Monsanto and BASF Plant Science are expanding joint biotech development work into wheat, potentially bringing GM wheat to market-- at least 10 years from now. The companies say they plant to initially focus on developing biotech products for the North American and Australian markets. The joint announcement comes on the heels of a separate plan announced by Syngenta and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) in April to work toward biotech wheat.

**May 17 2010: Monsanto plant in The Netherlands shut down by activists**

Action group "Round Up Monsanto" successfully shutdown the main Monsanto plant in the Netherlands, formally De Ruiter Seeds. Forty people chained themselves to the entrance gate at the wake of day and prevented personnel from entering the office buildings and greenhouses. Thierry Boyer, head of Monsanto's European vegetable division, contacted his superiors and decided not to press charges. As a result the police will not interfere. "The company will be effectively closed for the day", the police chief in charge confirmed. 350 people are employed at the plant. Many employees welcomed the action and said they were not happy with the takeover of De Ruiter Seeds by Monsanto in 2008. De Ruiter Seeds is the third Dutch vegetable seed company that was bought up by Monsanto. With these acquisitions the company aims to monopolise the vegetable seed market.

Banners on the gates and on the Monsanto logo on the premises said: "Monopoly on food and toxic agriculture - the world according to Monsanto" and "Imagine... agriculture without poison and without GMO's - a world without Monsanto".

**April 2010: Monsanto faces farmer resistance to high prices - Company earnings disappoint, scrap target to double profits in 5 years.** Monsanto's second quart

erearningsdidnotmatchtheirprojections,thoughthecompanyisstillrobust(somewereexpectingworsere sults).Therewasa19%dropinfiscalsecondquarterearnings.OneequitiesanalystreferredtoMonsanto'sa rroganceasitsambitiousgrowthprojectionswereunrealistic.Farmersarerefusingtopaythenewhighprice forMonsanto'seighthtraitGECorn<a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-On-the-Market/Corn" target="\_self">"SmartStax"</a> @\$75/bag.Farmersarealsorefusingtopayh ighpricesforRoundupReady2soy.Monsanto'sresultshavebeeneffectedbythefactthattheirclaimstohig heryieldsarenotsubstantiatedwiththird-partydata.MonsantoisnowreducingitspricesincludingheavilydiscountingSmartStax.Monsantocallsthis "penetrationpricing"becauseitisdesignedtopenetratethemarket-gainmarketshare.</p><p><b>March2010:<a href="http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-10/monsanto-7-state-probe-threatens-profit-from-93-soybean-share.html" target="\_self">SevenUSStateAttorneysGeneralinvestigatingMonsanto'sMonopolyPracti ces(BusinessWeek, March10,2010)</a></p><p><b>March2010:<a href="http://indiatoday.intoday.in/sit e/Story/86939/India/Bt+cotton+has+failed+admits" target="\_self">MonsantoAdmitsBtCottonhasFail edinIndia</a>Forthefirsttimeanywhereintheworld,biotechagriculturegiantMonsantohasadmittedthati nsectshavedevelopedresistancetoitsBt(insectresistant)cottoncrop.EvidencewasobservedbyMonsa ntofromGujaratprovince.</p><p><b>March2010:ArulingintheUSthatprohibitstheplantingofGEalfalfaint hcountrymaysoonbeoverturned.In2007ajudgeruledthattheUSDepartmentofAgriculture's(USDA)ap provalofGEalfalfawasillegalandorderedtheDepartmenttoconductanenvironmentalriskassessmentto l ookintofarmerconcernsaboutcontamination.<a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Alfalfa" target="\_self">ClickhereforinformationaboutCanadianactionandupdates.</a></p><p ><b>February2010:IndiahashaltedthecommercialcultivationofwhatwouldhavebeenitsfirstGEvegetablec rop-eggplant.EnvironmentMinisterJairamRameshsaidmorestudieswereneededtoensureGEaube rginesweresafeforconsumersandtheenvironment.TheGEvegetablereceivedapprovalfromgovernme ntscientistsin2009butoppositionwaswidespread:"Publicsentimentisnegative.Itismy dutytoadop tacautious,precautionary,principle-basedapproach,"MinisterRameshsaid.</p><p><b>November2009:MonsantohassuedfourOntario farmersforsavingandreusingMonsanto'spatentedherbicidetolerantsoybeanscalledRoundup Ready.NotonlydidthecourtsrulethatthefarmersmustpayMonsantoanyprofitstheyderivedfromgrowing thesoybeans,theymustalsopayasignificantportionofMonsanto'scostsfortakingthemtocourt-- amountsrangingfrom\$9,000to\$63,000perindividual.Aswell,thefourfarmersareamongthefirsttobeco nfrontedwithMonsanto'snew"ViolatorExclusionPolicy".Theywillbeplacedonan"Unau thorizedGrowerList"anddeniedallaccesstoMonsanto'scurrentandfuturetechnologiesfo rever.Monsantocallsthis"SeedPiracy"-<a href="/Resources/Topics/Monsanto/Monsanto-s-Seed-Piracy-Newsletter" target="\_self">ClickheretoseeMonsanto'sSeedPiracyNewsletter!</a></p><p><b>July15,20 09:MonsantohasinvestedindevelopingnewGMwheat.MonsantoboughtWestBred,aMontanac ompanyspecializinginwheatgermplasm.MonsantostatedtheywillnowdevelopnewGMwheatvarieties. Monsanto'sannouncementfollowstheMaystatementfromindustrygroupsinAustralia,CanadaandtheU Sstatingthattheywouldworktogethertosynchronizecommercializationinthethreecountries.<a href="/R esources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Wheat/Join-the-Global-Rejection-of-GE-Wheat" target="\_self">JointheGlobalRejectioncounterstatement- signonhere!</a></p><p><b>May2009:MonsantosaysitexpectsitsU.S.grossprofitfromsalesofseedsandtr aitstodoubleby2012fromthe2008level,whileitsinternationalbusinessesshouldgrowby85perce nt.Monsantosaysitwilllauncha"highimpacttechnologyproduct"everyonetotwoyears,with hegoalthateachprojectwilldelivermorethan\$300millioningrossrevenueopportunitiesby2020inthecou ntrywhereitislaunched.<a href="http://uk.reuters.com/article/tnBasicIndustries-SP/idUKN1337919020090513" target="\_self">Checkthestory.</a></p><aname="eztoc2350\_1\_1" id ="eztoc2350\_1\_1"></a><h3>Monsanto'sReach:</h3><p><b>Agrofuels<br/>Monsantonowtalksaboutt he?world?sgrowingfood,feed,fiber,andfuelneeds?(AnnualReport2007).Monsantostandstogainsubs tantiallyfromtherushtoproducefuelsfromouragriculturalbase-biofuels(agrofuels)- becauseheacreageofGECropscouldnowbeexpandedtogrowfuelaswellasfood.Monsanto'smajorGE cropsofcorn,canolaandsoyareallusedforethanolorbiodieselinthecurrentso- called"firstgeneration"biofuels.Tocounterthepublicrelationsproblemoftheworldfoodcrisis andtheproblemof?foodvsfuel?MonsantowithArcherDanielsMidlandCompany(ADM),DuPont,JohnD

eere (Deere and Company) and the Renewable Fuels Association had set up a new lobby group called the [Alliance for Abundant Food and Energy](http://www.foodandenergy.org). Monsanto is looking towards sowing these seeds for food and fuel. [Click here for more information on agrofuels](/Resources/Topics/Agrofuels).

**Bovine Growth Hormone**  
 In August 2008 Monsanto sold its controversial and widely rejected recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH), a genetically engineered veterinary drug designed to boost milk production in dairy cows, to pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly. Rejected in 1999 by regulatory agencies in Canada, BGH is still used in the United States. [Click here to read the book chapter about what happened in Canada to BGH](/Resources/Tools/Reports/The-Story-of-Bovine-Growth-Hormone-in-Canada).

**Patents**  
 Monsanto owns patents on its genetic sequences and enforces its patent rights over the seeds it sells to farmers. It believes it has saved and used its seeds without authorization. When farmers buy Monsanto seeds they must sign a Technology Use Agreement, a contract with Monsanto whereby farmers agree not to save Monsanto seeds for planting again. Monsanto now owns Terminator technology which would be the perfect tool for the corporation to protect its patents, without the bad public relations of suing farmers (see below). [Click here to see an example of a Technology Use Agreement](http://www.percyschmeiser.com/TUA.htm). [Click here to see Vandana Shiva describe what patents mean to Monsanto](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah-ZeN_gghro).

[Click here to read the report Monsanto vs Farmers from the Center for Food Safety](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/Monsantovsusfarmersreport.cfm). [Click here to see Percy Schmeiser's website](http://www.percyschmeiser.com).

**Terminator Seeds**  
 Terminator seeds are genetically engineered to be sterile after the first harvest in order to prevent farmers from saving and reusing seed. The technology would be the perfect tool for Monsanto to protect its intellectual property without costly legal action against farmers. Monsanto recently bought the original patent on Terminator as well as the most advanced research when it purchased the cotton and soybean seed company Delta & Pine Land. In 1999, when Monsanto was first preparing to buy Delta & Pine Land, the Rockefeller Foundation wrote a letter to Monsanto pleading the company to disavow Terminator. Monsanto responded with a pledge never to commercialize Terminator. However, Monsanto never pledged to stop research. The technology has never been field tested or commercialized but when Monsanto bought Delta & Pine Land in 2007, the company had the most advanced Terminator research in the world including greenhouse tests in the US. Due to international protest, a moratorium on Terminator seed field testing and commercial use was established at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000, and strengthened in 2006. For detail on Terminator [click here to see the website of the International Ban Terminator Campaign](http://www.banterminator.org).

**Vegetables**  
 Though fruits and vegetables remain, for the most part, free of genetic engineering (some GE squash and papaya varieties have been commercialized), Monsanto now owns a large part of the fruit and vegetable seed market. In 2005 Monsanto bought fruit and vegetable company [Seminis](http://www.seminis.com/), giving Monsanto control over more than 30 percent of the North American vegetable seed market, as well as more than 20 percent of the world's tomato seed market and more than 30 percent of the global hot pepper seed market. (Monsanto To Buy Vegetable Seed Company, Carey Gillam, Reuters, April 1, 2008) Seminis had already developed a genetically engineered virus resistant squash (their online catalogue includes GE varieties of yellow crookneck and straightneck, zucchini). Seminis' squash is currently the only GE vegetable on the market. In 2007 Monsanto formed the International Seed Group, a holding company to invest in vegetable and fruit seed businesses. And in early 2008 Monsanto bought De Ruyter Seeds Group BV for \$860 million. The company sells tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and other produce that grow in greenhouses.

[Combat Monsanto: Building a World Free From Monsanto](http://www.combat-monsanto.co.uk/) - new website dedicated to exposing Monsanto

[Monsanto's 7 Deadly Sins, Greenpeace](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/reports/7-deadly-sins)

[New Film: The World According to Monsanto](/Resources/Tools/Films)