



## **For Immediate Release 17th September, 2012**

Occupy Monsanto Rally 600 St Kilda Rd, Melb: Noon, Monday September 17th.

Over 70 Protests Target Monsanto Worldwide

Monsanto has occupied our food and farms. It's time to claim them back.

"Something's wrong when Monsanto, which has poisoned us with PCB's, Agent Orange, dioxin and pesticides, controls much of the global food supply. Their latest product, GM food is being silently slipped onto our plates." says Jessica Harrison of GM Cropwatch.

"We want the right to eat GM-free and farmers must be able to grow our food without risking GM contamination."

Monsanto owns patents on 90% of commercially grown GM crops. These GM crops have two main traits:

- they can survive being sprayed with weedkillers like Roundup. The idea is the weeds die and the GM crops survive. (herbicide tolerance)
- they produce toxins within their cells that destroy the guts of certain insects when they eat the GM plants. As these toxin are produced within plant cells they can't be washed off. (insect resistance)

Monsanto is also the largest non-GM seed company in the world with about one quarter of the seed market.

"People know of Monsanto's convictions for lying and bribery. They know of the illnesses and deaths Monsanto's products have caused. They are very worried that GM food, Monsanto's latest product, is in our food virtually unlabelled as our laws are so weak." Says Fran Murrell of Mothers Are Demystifying GE (MADGE).

"If Monsanto thinks GM is so great, label it and let us decide if we want to eat it."

Occupy Monsanto is an emerging network of concerned people worldwide who over the past 8 months staged numerous protests at companies connected to GM food and crops.

Over 70 protests target Monsanto worldwide. "Why target Monsanto? As US house of reps Dennis Kucinich says: "The influence and the corruption of the political process by Monsanto. Monsanto has been a prime mover in GMO technology, a multi-million dollar GMO lobby here and a major political contributor." [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J\\_YvtbSSqg&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J_YvtbSSqg&feature=player_embedded)

On September 17, 2012 week-long protests begin in St. Louis Missouri USA where Monsanto Corporation is headquartered.

Occupy Monsanto events are also in Argentina, Canada, Germany, India, Philippines & Australia.

[An interactive map with times, dates and locations of the 60+ protests is here.](#)

On November 6th California voters will decide if GM foods must be labelled. Monsanto has spent \$4.2 million opposing GM labelling in this ballot.

More info: Jessica 0407 307 231

Campaigns on eating and farming GM-free:

- Gene Gene Ethics 1300 133 868 info@geneethics.org www.geneethics.org
- MADGE info@madge.org.au www.madge.org.au
- GM Cropwatch gmcropwatch@gmail.com

**References:**

Monsanto's ownership of seeds:

<http://www.gmwatch.org/gm-firms/10558-the-worlds-top-ten-seed-companies-who-owns-nature>

The World According to Monsanto - 10 part film detailing Monsanto's behaviour

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvGddgHRQyg>

Conviction for lying

<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2009/11/21/france-finds-monsanto-guilty-of-lying.aspx>

Convicted of bribery - Indonesia <http://www.calt.iastate.edu/bribery.html>

Monsanto's fight against GM labelling in California

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/14/business/california-referendum-pits-organic-brands-against-corporate-parents.html?pagewanted=1&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/14/business/california-referendum-pits-organic-brands-against-corporate-parents.html?pagewanted=1&_r=0)