

Monsanto, Bill Gates, et al.— Food Police for Genocide

by Marcia Merry Baker

Oct. 14—Amidst today's world food crisis, the dramatic degree of control over seeds and crop genetics by a select few mega-firms in the agro-chemical cartel, is as much an outstanding crime, as are the more obvious conditions of shortages, speculation, and hyperinflation. These companies claim patent rights to seeds and crop traits. It is important to grasp the underlying principle involved in their crime: *There is no moral basis for ownership of patent rights over lifeforms of any kind. You cannot patent a food. You cannot patent the means to life.*

The fact that patent rights over seeds and plant-breeding methods came about in the last 40 years under globalization, is a testament to the evil of the financial British Empire. Food seed patents were prohibited in the United States until the 1970s, when U.S. law and practice were increasingly subverted. Three current events underscore the menace of allowing this wrongful practice to continue.

In September, a U.S. court gave yet another win to Monsanto, for its claim that a farmer violated the company's patent rights to biotechnologically engineered soybeans. This is par for the course for Monsanto and cohort companies, which run terror campaigns of investigations and lawsuits in the U.S. farmbelt.

Secondly, in September, India announced that it will file suit against Monsanto, through its government agency, the Biodiversity Authority, to try to stop Monsanto's patent-assault on eggplant (brinjal), one of the staples of the national diet. The government is expected to charge Monsanto with bio-piracy of indigenous Indian eggplant germplasm, which the company then used to genetically engineer new strains, so it could patent the resulting vegetable varieties.

Thirdly, on the international policy

front, Microsoft mogul Bill Gates and his fellow philanthropo-fascists are becoming more and more flagrant, while representing Monsanto and the agro-cartels, in dictating food policy to nations. The way it works is that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and a few others, are controlling the purse strings for research funding on key projects in rice, potatoes, wheat, and many other staples at colleges and formerly independent research centers, all the while, working in league with Monsanto and the agro-cartel firms to maintain their "intellectual property rights" to food patents, and global food sourcing. The signature Gates line is: We want to help the "smallholder farmer."

The Gates nexus has set up a network of new agencies and initiatives to impose cartel control policy, over and above nations. For example, in April 2010, Gates and Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner announced the formation of a Global Food and Agriculture Initiative, administered by the World Bank. In 2006, the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations set up AGRA—the Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa—which functions to police research and food policy on that continent.



The perversion of U.S. patent laws, beginning with a 1980 Supreme Court decision, has allowed Monsanto and other agro-chemical mega-cartels to claim patent rights to seeds and crop traits. Between 1998 and 2006, Monsanto sued 2,391 farmers in 19 states, and runs "Field Checks" to police farmers, who are suspected of violating its patents.



Senthikumar Aanand

The government of India has announced that it will file suit against Monsanto in an effort to stop the cartel's bio-piracy—a patent-assault on eggplant (brinjal, shown here)—one of the staples of the national diet.

In September, Gates personally briefed the Group of 20 ministerial meeting in Washington, D.C., on his view of “development” and food policy; he is to provide a report on this to the G20 meeting in November in Cannes, France.

Monsanto, Gates, and others are part of the commodities wing of international financial and political interests best understood as a neo-British East India Company—furthering plantation agriculture and famine. Their policies are genocide, all the more odious, as they present themselves as champions of science and agriculture, when their intent is scarcity and death. Gates calls it “reducing population to balance with limited resources”—jargon for opposing any and all programs which would build up agro-industrial productivity and nation-states, such as large-scale water management, soil fertility, nuclear power, and transportation systems. In Fall 2009, Gates personally a book, *Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agriculture Development*, which used fake pro-food rhetoric, from his depopulation vantage point.

Subversion of Patent Law, Food Policy

A short history of U.S. law concerning food crops shows how the traditional governing principle—that seeds and genetic advances, inherently part of the

means to life, are not appropriate for patenting—was overturned over the past 40 years, on behalf of the private financial and political interests behind the food commodity cartels.

The milestone developments:

In 1930, the Plant Patent Act (PPA) was passed, to give some marketing protection (such as exclusive rights to the name of a new hybrid rose) to those marketing flowers and ornamentals, but the PPA *specifically excluded any plant that could be considered a food crop from any patent protection.*

However, in 1970, the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA), for the first time, gave some private rights for specific varieties of food crop seeds, in the form of certificates, *not patents*, for periods of up to 25 years. Still, farmers and researchers could save, re-plant, and experiment with the seeds.

Then came a 1980 Supreme Court decision approving patenting of living organisms, opening the door to patenting of any life form, under total private control. In 1985, the U.S. Patent Office ruled that plants could be protected under the powerful concept of the industrial patent, meaning no exemptions for farmers or researchers. University-based, and other public science labs were devastated.

Over the 1990s, sweeping “patent rights to life” were granted, with Monsanto in the lead for soybeans and cotton. In 1998, Monsanto started its GMO alfalfa work with the University of Montana, from which Monsanto got its Roundup Ready alfalfa. Broad genetics patent rights, including for food grains, have also been included in the GATT/WTO “intellectual property rights” treaties.

Rearguard actions by Congress—including the 1994 Plant Variety Protection Act, and certain court cases—attempted to restrict this trend, but with little effect. (The PVPA set up a system of 20-year certificates for new plant varieties, whether or not they were genetically modified.)

Then, in December 2001, a U.S. Supreme Court decision (*JEM Ag Supply, Inc. v. Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.*, Dec. 10, 2001) gutted both the 1930 Plant Protection Act and the 1994 PVPA, thus opening the door for any plant or animal to be patented under the strict Utility Patent law, no holds barred.

Between 1998 and 2006, Monsanto sued 2,391 farmers in 19 states, according to a tally kept by the Center for Food Policy, and this pattern has continued over the last five years. In Canada, Monsanto set up its “Field

Check” program in 2003, deploying brigades of gumshoes to investigate farmers. The company’s patent enforcement division is reported to have a full-time hit-squad of 75 attorneys and staff, with a multimillion-dollar budget. The St. Louis-based detective firm McDowell and Associates does the field investigations.

Monsanto v. Indiana Farmer

The recent case of *Monsanto v. Bowman* in Indiana, is exemplary of the company’s modus operandi, and the corruption of the government institutions which allow it. On Sept. 21, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C., upheld a lower court ruling that Monsanto could claim \$84,456 from Indiana farmer Vernon Bowman, charging that he withheld and planted soybean seeds which had Monsanto-patented traits in them, without permission of, or payment to, Monsanto, even though Bowman bought the seeds up-and-up from a grain elevator as a “mixed bag” bulk purchase, of what are termed “commodity seeds”—i.e., undifferentiated seeds. This type of seeds is explicitly okay for a farmer to buy from the elevator, as is, even under the current cartel-serving law.

But how and why Monsanto decided to investigate and pounce on the farmer is this: Bowman, who had for years paid Monsanto fully for soybeans for his first planting, would occasionally do a second-generation planting of grain-elevator mixed-bag seeds. Occasionally, from that harvest, he would hold some over for another planting. Monsanto sued him. Bowman’s legal comeback was that “patent exhaustion” applied, a long-established ruling.

But Monsanto beat the farmer. The rotten Appellate decision said, “While farmers, like Bowman, may have the right to use commodity seeds as feed, or for any other conceivable use, they cannot ‘replicate’ Monsanto’s patented technology by planting it in the ground to create newly infringing genetic material, seeds and plants.”



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Seed Cartel

Monsanto is based in St. Louis, with an international workforce of 21,035, in 404 facilities, in 66 countries. Of that, there are 10,317 employees in the United States, where the company has 146 facilities in 33 states. An associate of Monsanto, Dr. Roger Beachey, was appointed by President Obama in 2010, as the Science Advisor to the Agriculture Department.

The other most prominent names in the tight seed and agro-chemical cartel include DuPont/Pioneer Hi-Bred, Syngenta, DowAgroSciences, Bayer Crop-Science, and BASF.

The DuPont Chemical Co., since 1999, has owned Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., based in Johnston, Iowa, and the largest seed corn company in the world. It sells a range of crop and forage seeds in 70 countries. The original seed company was founded in 1926 in Iowa

by Henry Wallace, later Agriculture Secretary and Vice President for Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Wallace developed topline hybridization methods for corn, and, by 1940, 90% of the U.S. crop was from hybrid seeds. He fully backed the standing U.S. law, that food seeds could not be patented. Wallace's firm was commercially and scientifically successful, based on sound methodology of crop breeding, and a reliable high-yielding product, free of weed, insect, dirt, and other problems.

Syngenta, based in Basel, Switzerland, operates in 90 countries, with a workforce of 26,000. Technically, it is only 11 years old, but its provenance goes much further back. It was formed in 2000, from the merger of Novartis Agribusiness and Zeneca Agrochemicals. Novartis was itself formed by the merger of the legendary Swiss chemical firms, Sandoz and Ciba-Geigy. Zeneca Agro came out of the British firms ICI (Imperial Chemical), and AstroZeneca.

DowAgroSciences LLC is based in Indianapolis, Ind., a subsidiary of The Dow Chemical Co. It was formed in 1997 as a joint venture between Dow's agriculture sciences division and the Eli Lilly Co., but now is wholly owned by Dow. Among the famous seed brands are Pfister and Mycogen.

BASF Plant Science, based in Limburgerhof, Germany, was established in 1998, as a centralization of all the agriculture bio-technology capacity of the long-standing BASF Chemical Co. BASF Plant Science has a 700-person research effort, focusing on plant genetics and patentable traits, in collaboration with the mega-seed companies. For example, in July 2010, the firm signed a major partnership deal with Monsanto for the development of new patentable wheat traits by 2020. The two companies' press release noted that, "Wheat is the world's second largest commodity crop after corn," and they intend to focus on developing new crop strains they can patent and market.

BayerCrop Science, based in Monheim, Germany, is the second-largest pesticide firm in the world. It operates in 120 countries, with 20,700 employees, making and selling fungicides, insecticides, and other plant protections, while also working on new bio-engineered formulations of plant life, and treating and selling seeds.

The Real Question of Science

The question of the science involved in genetically engineered, or bio-technologically engineered foods at this point in human history, is *not* whether GMOs (ge-

netically modified organisms) are unsafe, nor whether the biotech firms are violating rules of the game, for testing and marketing genetically modified (gm) seeds, etc. The question is: Why are we allowing genocidalists to control research and to "own" food?

Many of the gm crop seed formulations are producing spectacular results, such as drought-tolerant corn. But imagine what we might be doing for humanity, if the lines of R&D were being pursued for the objectives of advancing knowledge and its applications for the benefit of civilization, and not for the next patent claim, and mega-profiteering.

For example, no consistent research has been done over the last five decades on developing rust-resistant wheat varieties. Such a priority had no place on the seed cartel R&D agenda. In the 1950s, Dr. Norman Borlaug, the Green Revolution hero, developed a rust-resistant variety for the strain of the disease which was ruining up to 40% of the North American wheat crop in certain areas. At that time, Borlaug issued a call for continued research on new varieties of resistant wheat, to be ready for the next outbreak of wheat rust. The work was never done. The outbreak occurred in Uganda in 1999, and now the UG99 strain of wheat rust is spreading toward India. There is a scramble to devise a resistant variety, which may or may not succeed in time.

Moreover, the cartel grab of control over plant research and seed supply, has gone hand-in-glove with cartel imposition of monoculture—the practice of single-cropping, year after year, in large areas. Look at the vast soy fields of Brazil, for example. A handful of processing and marketing firms—Cargill, Dreyfus, Bunge, ADM—constitute a cartel which dominates international trade in commodities resulting from the so-called "global sourcing" of food.

Using the same or similar crop seeds and chemicals—whatever their merits, under these conditions, year-on-year, is bound to contribute to the potential of emergence of superweeds, superbugs, and other problems. More than 20 states in the South and Midwest are now reporting localized spread of superweeds (pigweed and other types), and resistance to Roundup, Monsanto's brand of glyphosate herbicide. An Iowa State entomologist has found instances in northeast Iowa, of corn borers being resistant to the formerly effective strain of GMO corn, which carried a trait-ability to exude an insecticide which would kill the borer. Monsanto has sold rootworm-resistant biotech corn since 2003.