
Monsantos patent applications and their implications

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The name Monsanto is linked with GM crops

- biggest supplier of GM crops (more than 90% of GM seeds comes from Monsanto)
- strong lobbyist for GM technology on national and international level
- all GM Crops are patented
- file patent lawsuits against other TNCs and farmers

Patent lawsuits

filed lawsuits against US-Farmers:

- 90 lawsuits between 1996 to 2005
- promotes a toll-free telephone number to report suspected “infringement” activities by neighbours
- Total prohibition of saving seeds (per patent or contract with farmers)

The importance of Monsanto in the breeding industry

- 1998: Monsanto acquired DeKalb with their animal breeding sector
- 2001: purchased Unipork (Canadian breeding enterprise)

US market share in swine breeding industry (2005)	
PIC	40 %
Monsanto	10-12 %

Granted patents in Europe: Overview 1980-2005

(from official figures EPO database, composed by Greenpeace)

Granted:

- Gene sequences from humans and animals 1752
- Animals 233
- Plants 558

Applications:

- Gene sequences from humans and animals ca 10.000
- Animals ca 3000
- Plants ca 3000

Monsantos pig patents

- Broad patents for a combination of breeding methods
- Hard to recognize where is the inventive step:

“the question is whether there is anything new” (Pig genome Coordinator from Iowa State University)

Patent on a gene sequence related to faster growth

- Gene sequence related to faster growth for the whole swine herd:
 - Claim 16 asks for a patent on: "A **pig offspring** produced by a method ..."
 - Claim 17 asks for a patent on: "A **pig herd** having an increased frequency of a specific ...gene..."
 - Claim 23 asks for a patent on: "A **pig population** produced by the method..."

Misereor says:

- No patents on life