

# March Against MONSANTO!

## NO CORPORATE CONTROL OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE!

Call for a world-wide DAY OF ACTION on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2013..

Have you heard of this agri-business company called Monsanto? Monsanto is an American company, which has become the world's largest seed company by employing many devious strategies and tactics. Its annual gross profit is around 22,500 crores of rupees - which is more than the GDP of at least 48 countries!

Imagine the power of this corporation. Monsanto is notorious across the world for a variety of misdeeds and crimes - polluting natural resources, killing and maiming humans with its products, bribing officials for approvals, falsifying safety reports to show the most dangerous chemicals like dioxin as safe, colluding with regulators through revolving doors between the company and government, false advertising etc.



What Indian farmers should know is that Monsanto is also a company which has sued and jailed farmers for the "crime" of saving and using seeds that have been purchased by the farmers from the company, to protect its patents.

Can you imagine farmers not being allowed the right to save seed from their own crop, when it is farmers who have bred thousands of crop varieties over the centuries?

'No food shall be grown that we don't own' that is Monsanto's reported objective.

### Monsanto's Misdeeds and Growing Threat in India

- ☛ Mahyco-Monsanto used its Bt cotton seed monopoly to set exorbitant prices. The A.P. government had to use the MRTP Commission, Essential Commodities Act and Monsanto actually sued A.P Govt saying they cant question their price.
- ☛ Monsanto entered into licensing agreements with most seed companies so that out of 225 lakh acres of GM cotton, 210 lakh acres is planted with its seed- Bollgard. Today they own 95% of the market share of cotton seeds in India, with no choice to farmers.
- ☛ Monsanto is on the Board of US-India Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture, under which bio-safety regime for GM crops was sought to be weakened;
- ☛ Monsanto entered into hushed-up agreements with several states (Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K) under which the states spend *hundreds of crores* of public funds every year to purchase Hybrid Maize seeds from them.
- ☛ Monsanto is pushing the sales of its herbicide glyphosate which is known to cause reproductive problems. Approval for its herbicide-tolerant GM crops would skyrocket the use of this hazardous chemical in our fields.
- ☛ Last year gross violations were exposed in its GM maize field trials in Karnataka.

### Oppose Corporate Control of our Food & Agriculture

It is not just the farmers who should worry; as consumers, our access to safe, diverse, nutritious food is at risk.

**JOIN THE STRUGGLE NOW!**



If we as a nation want to protect our food sovereignty, if we want to retain control on what we grow and what we eat, this is the time for us to act decisively.

Join us: @ The Marina Beach to March Against Monsanto  
from Labour statue to Gandhi statue at  
3pm on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

