

FAST FACTS ON THE CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION OF INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROPS

- ▲ Six corporations based in the U.S. and Europe controlled 98 percent of the market for GM crops and 70 percent of the world's pesticide market in 2000.
- ▲ Ninety-one percent of all GM crops grown worldwide in 2001 were from Monsanto seeds.
- ▲ The four corporations that control most of the GM seed market had a combined turnover from agrochemicals and seeds of \$21.6 billion in 2001.
- ▲ Ten corporations supply 33 percent of the global seed market compared to thousands of companies 20 years ago.
- ▲ GM crops covered 58 million hectares worldwide in 2002—an area two and a half times the size of the UK.
- ▲ Only 1 percent of GM research is aimed at crops used by poor farmers in poor countries.
- ▲ It can cost up to \$300 million to develop a GM crop and the process can take up to 12 years.
- ▲ From 1999-2001, the U.S. paid out an estimated total extra \$10 billion in farm subsidies for maize and soya (as "Loan Deficiency Payments" and "Market Loss Assistance") as a result of the low prices caused by the loss of trade due to GM crops. The loss of foreign trade due to GM crops totaled an estimated \$1-2 billion.

Sources: "GM Crops—Going Against the Grain," ActionAid, May 2003 and "Seeds of Doubt: Experiences of North American Farmers of Genetically Modified Crops," Soil Association, U.K., 2002

CORPORATE CONSOLIDATION OF SEEDS, CHEMICALS, AND COMMODITIES

- ▲ Seven top agricultural biotech companies rank as the world's top seven agrochemical corporations. These seven Gene Giants also rank among the world's top 10 seed corporations.
- ▲ The top 10 seed firms control 30 percent of the \$24.4 billion commercial seed market.
- ▲ The top two seed companies—Syngenta and Pharmacia—control 34 percent of the global agrochemical market, valued at US\$29.9 billion in 2000.
- ▲ The top 10 agrochemical corporations control 84 percent of the US\$30 billion agrochemical market.
- ▲ The top 10 pharmaceutical companies control an estimated 48 percent of the \$317 billion world market.
- ▲ The top 10 veterinary pharmaceutical companies control 60 percent of the \$13.6 billion world market.
- ▲ By 2000, five grain-trading companies controlled 75 percent of the world's cereal commodity market (and its pricing).
- ▲ By 2000, in the United States, four cattle processors controlled 80 percent of the U.S. market (double their share in 1980), and five food retailers controlled nearly 50 percent of retail food sales.
- ▲ Large corporations produce 98 percent of all poultry in the United States.
- ▲ Just 2 percent of farms produce 50 percent of all agricultural products in the United States.
- ▲ Four firms handle more than 80 percent of all beef slaughter. Just two decades ago, concentration in this sector was below 40 percent.
- ▲ Sixty percent of pork production in the U.S. is owned by just four firms.

Sources: "Globalization, Inc.," ETC Group Communique, Issue #71, July/August 2001, "Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World is Possible," International Forum on Globalization, 2002, and "Agribusiness Concentration," Oxfam America, April 19, 2002