

MONSANTO



MONSANTO COMPANY
VEGETABLE SEEDS DIVISION
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Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Att. Minister G. Verburg
Postbus 20401
2500 EK Den Haag, The Netherlands

Ministry of Economic Affairs
Att. Minister M.J.A. van der Hoeven
Ministerie van Economische Zaken
Postbus 20101
2500 EC Den Haag, The Netherlands

Ministry of Justice
Att Minister Dr. E.M.H. Hirsch Ballin
Postbus 20301
2500 EH Den Haag, The Netherlands

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am the current global lead of Monsanto Company's vegetable business. In my prior role, I led Monsanto's Europe/Africa business and was based in Switzerland for three years. I am writing to you today to bring a matter of urgent importance to your attention.

Regarding the recent submission by Plantum NL to the government of The Netherlands concerning a breeders' exemption in plant breeding, Monsanto and its affiliated businesses in The Netherlands, including Seminis, Western Seeds and De Ruiter Seeds Group, encourage the government to not adopt the Plantum NL position, but rather call for a balanced position which takes into accounts the interest of both breeders and inventors. Monsanto is willing and eager to participate in working toward such a solution. Further, we fully support and view the attached letter from our plant science industry trade group, CropLife International, as a valuable first step in moving toward a resolution that is satisfactory to all.

The Plantum NL proposal exceeds and contradicts the European Union biotech patent directive and is inconsistent with the positions of international, regional, and national seed breeding industry organizations. The Plantum NL proposal not only argues to exempt the use of patented plants for breeding and developing new varieties, but also allows for commercialization, even if the new varieties comprise a patented element.

Monsanto respects the concerns of some breeders that patented trait technology in seed may impede their ability to conduct further breeding. Nevertheless, around the world, the business of breeding new and improved germplasm, even when PTT is present, continues with great success. In fact, even in nations without a breeders' exemption, the breeding industry is strong and continues to prosper.

Sustainable agriculture innovation has been adopted as a fundamental development and environment principle in several UN bodies. Innovative agriculture solutions which are critical in addressing many of today's global population, hunger, and environmental challenges are the result of costly hard work. The ability to develop such innovation is a direct result of the assurance provided by intellectual property rights. To date, our investment and commitment to business in the Netherlands is self-evident. Robust intellectual property rights, and an ability to protect our investment in research and development are essential in order for us to continue to bring new products and agricultural solutions to growers around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our thoughts regarding this important issue.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Consuelo E. Madere".

Consuelo E. Madere

President, Monsanto Vegetable Business