

# Monsanto's Seed Company Subsidiaries

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The rise of genetic engineering has not only diminished the ability for farmers to practice their own methods of seed selection, but also turned another sector of agriculture into a business monopolized by a few corporations.

Since the 1990s, the number of companies that sell seeds for commodity crops like corn and soybeans has decreased dramatically. Farmers are dependent on a smaller number of firms for seeds, and the prices have risen sharply as the market has become more concentrated.

The seed industry, which once relied on universities for most research and development,<sup>1</sup> is now dominated by a few major chemical and pharmaceutical giants that patent specific traits in seeds and charge fees to farmers who use their patented seeds. Between 1996 and 2007, Monsanto, the largest supplier of genetically engineered (or GMO) seed traits,<sup>2</sup> acquired more than a dozen smaller companies,<sup>3</sup> and it now controls 60 percent of corn and 62.5 percent of soybean seeds and seed trait licenses in the United States.<sup>4</sup>

Monsanto's vegetable seed subsidiary, Seminis, is one of the largest seed distributors and has been acquiring seed companies since the mid-1990s. Monsanto acquired Seminis in 2005.<sup>5</sup>

In addition to the many seed companies that are partially or fully owned by Monsanto and Seminis, some seed companies distribute Seminis products, along with other companies' products. This does not mean that these companies are owned by Seminis or Monsanto, nor do they necessarily supply GMO vegetables — Seminis has many products that are conventionally bred hybrid varieties. But they do bring Seminis products to the market.

## Seed Companies Owned by Monsanto and Its Subsidiaries<sup>6</sup>

- Advanta Seeds (Canada)
- Agrocere (Brazil)
- Agroeste Sementes (Brazil)
- American Seeds, Inc.
- Asgrow (which previously purchased O's Gold Seed Co.)
- Bo-Ca Enterprises
- Bruinsma
- Campbell Seed (marketing and sales segment)
- Cargill Seeds International (Central/Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa)
- Channel Bio (Wilson Seeds, Midwest Seed Genetics, Crows)
- Choong Ang Seed Company (Korea)
- CNDK (partnership with China National Seed Group)
- Corn State Hybrid Services
- Cotton States
- De Ruiters Seeds
- DeKalb Genetics
- Delta & Pine Land Company
- Dieckmann Seeds (Germany)
- Diener Seeds
- Emergent Genetics (Mahendra, Indusem, Daehnfeldt, Paras)
- Fielder Choice Direct
- First Line Seeds (Canada)
- Fontanelle Hybrids (Nebraska Irrigated)
- Gold Country Seed
- Hawkeye Hybrids
- Heartland Hybrids
- Heritage Seeds
- Holden's Foundation Seeds
- Hubner Seed
- Hungnong Seed Company (Korea)
- ICORN Inc.
- Jacob Hartz Seed (Hybritech, AgriProWheat)
- Jung Seed
- Kruger Seed
- Lewis Hybrids

- Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (joint venture in India)
- Marmot (Guatemala)
- Moweaqua Seed
- NC+ Hybrids
- Pannon Seeds (Hungary)
- Peotec
- Petoseed Company
- Poloni Semences (France)
- Rea Hybrids
- Renessen (joint venture with Cargill)
- Royal Sluis (Holland)
- Seminis Inc.
- Seminium (Argentina)
- Sensako and Carnia (South Africa)
- Sieben Hybrids
- Specialty Hybrids
- Stewart Seeds
- Stone Seeds
- Trelay Seeds
- Trisler Seed Farm
- WestBred
- Western Seed

## Authorized Seminis/Monsanto Seed Dealers<sup>7</sup>

- Ag-Seeds Unlimited
- Anderson's Seed & Garden, Inc.
- Ball Horticultural Company
- Bunton Seed
- Corona Seeds
- DeBruyn Seed Company, Inc.
- DeWitt Seed Company
- Dixondale Farms
- Earl May Seed & Nursery LLC
- Early's Farm & Garden Centre
- El Seed
- Farmer Seed & Nursery
- Fukuda Seed Store
- Garden Trends, Inc. dba Harris Seeds
- Germania Seed Company
- Gowan Seed Company, LLC
- Grimes Horticulture
- H.F. Michell Company
- Holmes Seed Company
- Hummert International
- Jordan Seeds, Inc.
- Keithly Williams Seeds, Inc.
- Kelly Seed Co.
- La Coop Uniforce
- Lockhart Seeds, Inc.
- Logan-Zenner

- Meyer Seed Co of Baltimore, Inc.
- Norseco, Inc.
- Ontario Seed
- Ornamental Edibles
- Osborne Seed Company, LLC
- Otis S. Twilley Seed Co., Inc.
- P.L. Rohrer & Bro., Inc.
- Rispens Seeds, Inc.
- Rupp Seeds, Inc.
- Santa Maria Seeds, Inc.
- Scott Seed Company
- Seedway, Inc.
- Select Seed of Arizona, Inc.
- Siegers Seed Company
- Snow Seed Company
- Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
- Stokes Seeds Ltd.
- T&T Seeds Ltd.
- The Page Seed Company
- Tomato Growers Supply Co.
- TS&L Seed Company
- Vis Seed Company, Inc.
- White Seed Company
- Willhite Seed, Inc.

## Endnotes

- 1 Howard, Phil. Michigan State University. "Seed Industry Structure, 1996–2008." 2009. On file at Food & Water Watch and available at <https://www.msu.edu/~howardp/seedindustry.html>. Accessed February 27, 2013; Fernandez-Cornejo, Jorge. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. "The Seed Industry in Agriculture." [AIB-786]. January 2004 at 25 to 26 and Table 18.
- 2 Whoriskey, Peter. "Monsanto's dominance draws antitrust inquiry." *The Washington Post*. November 29, 2009.
- 3 Organization for Competitive Markets. "Monsanto Transgenic Trait Dominance in US Market, 1996–2007." June 2008; Fernandez-Cornejo, 2004 at 33 to 34.
- 4 Monsanto Co. "Supplemental toolkit for investors." June 2009 at 6 and 9. On file at Food & Water Watch. Accessed December 1, 2009.
- 5 Monsanto Co. Securities and Exchange Commission. 10-K Filing, 2005 at 43.
- 6 Company press releases, news articles and annual reports. On file at Food & Water Watch.
- 7 Seminis. "Vegetable Seed Suppliers & Distributors." Available at <http://www.seminis.com/global/us/products/Pages/Home-Garden.aspx>. Accessed March 1, 2013.



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