THREE THINGS
THAT EVERYONE
SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT
MONSANTO

THE WORLD
WE LIVE IN

The latest population projections released by the U.N. Department of Economics and Social Affairs put the world’s population at 9.6 billion people in 2050, from 7.1 billion today. This is equivalent to adding another China to the world – increasing demand for food worldwide, including protein. Together we have to find ways to meet this rising demand while conserving scarce natural resources.

For more information, please check out:

www.monsanto.com/viewpoints
www.monsantoblog.eu
www.monsantoblog.com
www.monsanto.com/business-in-europe/
www.monsantoblog.com
www.monsantoblog.eu

1 http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Documentation/pdf/
2 Source: EU 2013 Industrial R&D Scoreboard - Survey 2013
5 Source: Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBI) Summer 2012
7 Source: Worldwatch Institute 2006
8 Source: Europol, 2013
9 Source: Europol, 2013

RISING population

Does Monsanto sell any GM seeds in Europe?

Yes – but not as much as you might think.

Monsanto’s seed business in Western Europe is 99% non-GM. Seeds with one GM maize trait have been sold in Spain and Portugal for the past 15 years and have helped both countries increase yields and reduce imports while saving water and energy.

What does Monsanto do in EMEA?

Monsanto has three main businesses in EMEA:

- maize, cotton and oilseed rape seeds, crop protection chemicals, and vegetable seeds. Our conventional maize and oilseed rape seeds have been particularly successful in Europe while our biotech maize and cotton are very successful in Africa. We are also one of the market leaders in broccoli and tomatoes in Europe and Monsanto’s Roundup is one of the world’s leading weed control products.

Why do we need agrochemicals?

Weed management is a constant challenge for every farmer. Herbicides are the primary and most effective tool for farmers to manage weeds and maximize crop yields. Herbicides enable the use of conservation tillage (no-till) and reduced tillage. Without herbicides, conservation tillage would not be possible, resulting in forgone benefits such as reduced soil erosion and enhanced moisture control.

Does Monsanto sell organic seeds?

We sell untreated seeds to organic farmers as well as organic seeds with one GM trait. Monsanto is one of the world’s largest suppliers to the organic market.

Changing climate

GROWING water needs

DECLINING arable land

Why do so many people criticize Monsanto?

We will never satisfy everyone, especially if they reject modern farming technologies, free trade and multinational companies. We believe we are making a contribution to improving agriculture and lives by helping farmers produce more, better and more affordable food with less land, water, energy and worry. We are grateful that thousands of farmers, large and small, continue to select our products year after year, and that our 22,000 employees continue to declare Monsanto a great place to work.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Monsanto is contributing to a more sustainable agriculture and improving lives by helping farmers produce more, better and more affordable food with less land, water, energy, waste and worry.
   a. What is Sustainable? Is it producing more food with less water, soil and energy per unit of output?
   That’s what we do best.
   b. Breeding, integrated farming systems, precision planting, Climate Corp. and biologics all contribute to producing food with less.
   c. In order to be sustainable, agriculture also has to produce food that is affordable to the people who need it.

2. Monsanto is a leader in delivering agricultural solutions from plant breeding to precision planting, biotech, biologics, crop protection and crop analytics, that improve yields and lives.
   a. Only 111 companies in the world invest more than $1 billion a year in R&D. Monsanto is one of them (#96).
   b. 100% of our R&D spending goes towards helping farmers solve problems related to pests, weather, and weeds and to improve nutrition and taste.
   c. More than half of Monsanto’s R&D expenditure goes towards innovative non-GM technologies.

3. Monsanto supports everyone’s right to choose the tools and foods that they need.
   a. We supply conventional and untreated seeds to organic farmers, as well as biotech seeds to the farmers who want and are allowed to plant them. Where legislation overpowers farmers and consumers a choice – including in Spain and Portugal in Europe – biotech seeds do well.
   b. Extremists and anti-GM politics deprive people of choice, not just in Europe, but also in developing countries, where many people suffer from hunger and malnutrition.
   c. Most people in the world consider cost an important and even decisive factor when they buy food. Even in Europe fewer than 5% of the population is willing to spend more for organic food.

Monsanto gets lots of awards: for sustainability, innovation, corporate equality, cultural competence, corporate responsibility, top science employer – including for being a Great Place to Work. At the same time, the Internet abounds with tales of another Monsanto of allegedly dark past and purpose.

This guide provides a set of factual statements about Monsanto as well as responses to the most common myths that you might encounter online. It is for anyone who wants to learn more.

We hope that you find it useful, and welcome any feedback you have.

1 http://fundacion-antama.org/el-cultivo-de-maiz-bt-ha-
seeds, crop protection chemicals, and
2.5 hectares per person in 1961
less than 8/10 hectare
per person in 2050
6 Source: Worldwatch Institute 2006
8 Source: Worldwatch Institute 2006
9 Source: Monsanto, 2016
10 Great Place to Work - Best Multinational Workplaces.aspx
Monsanto controls the world’s food supply

While Monsanto is strong in a few crops such as maize, rape seed, cotton and soybeans, our seeds represent less than five percent of the seeds planted globally, far from controlling the world’s food supply. More than 1,000 private breeding companies supply the commercial seed market.

Monsanto products are killing the bees

While there have been recent reports about some bee populations declining, it is not because of GM plants. There are many other natural and human factors influencing bee populations, such as climate change. Monsanto has conducted research into a number of bee health issues.

Monsanto GMOs cause farmer suicides in India

Indian farmers do sometimes commit suicide, but this is unrelated to Monsanto. Farmer suicides began before the introduction of GM cotton in India in 2002. In fact, suicides among farmers have been decreasing since the introduction of GM cotton and are no higher among Indian farmers than among the Indian population as a whole.

Monsanto hired Blackwater to spy on critics

Monsanto did not hire Blackwater. The U.S. government ordered Monsanto, along with other companies, to make Agent Orange for U.S. military use during the Vietnam War. Monsanto stopped making it in 1969, more than 40 years ago.

Monsanto manipulates governments

Monsanto strictly forbids its employees to peddle government officials. Monsanto fully respects regulatory requirements everywhere it operates and employs a broad program to prevent fraud and corruption. Any employees or partners engaging in such conduct face immediate dismissal.

Glyphosate risks have not been properly assessed

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is one of the most studied active ingredients globally and has been approved for use in weed control products in more than 100 countries for more than 40 years. Authorities subject all Roundup formulations to strict risk assessments before they are considered for authorization for sale. As is also the case with other crop protection products, both the active substance and the final products are subject to such an evaluation process.

Monsanto is creating “super-weeds”

Weed resistance is natural. It is an evolutionary response to otherwise effective influences. Weeds have developed resistance to every major herbicide – it’s simply an evolutionary fact of life. For example, GM crops have never been produced for resistance to another herbicide, yet some 44 weed species are now resistant to it. Monsanto supports a holistic approach to weed management.

Monsanto invented Agent Orange

Monsanto did not invent Agent Orange. The U.S. government ordered Monsanto, along with other companies, to make Agent Orange for U.S. military use during the Vietnam War. The U.S. government Co-terminated making it in 1969, more than 40 years ago.

Monsanto is killing the monarch butterfly

Monsanto supports programs to increase the availability of milkweed – along monarchs’ migratory pathway.

Monsanto opposes GM food labeling

Monsanto fully supports voluntary marketing labels. Such “organic” labeling that already exists in most countries – for consumers who want to have a choice of foods that don’t contain GM ingredients. We oppose mandatory labeling of products with GM ingredients in the absence of any demonstrated risk. Such mandatory labeling could be understood to imply that food products containing GM ingredients are somehow inferior to their conventional or organic counterparts, which is untrue.

Monsanto is killing the world’s food supply

False

Monsanto products are killing the bees

False

Monsanto GMOs cause farmer suicides in India

False

Monsanto hired Blackwater to spy on critics

False

Monsanto manipulates governments

False

Glyphosate risks have not been properly assessed

False

Monsanto is creating “super-weeds”

False

Monsanto invented Agent Orange

False

Monsanto is killing the monarch butterfly

False


5. http://www.glyphosate.eu


8. Report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a leading agricultural organization.


10. Monsanto supports programs to increase the availability of milkweed – along monarchs’ migratory pathway.

11. http://www.monsanto.com/about/pages/about-myths-


13. Monsanto strictly forbids its employees to peddle government officials. Monsanto fully respects regulatory requirements everywhere it operates and employs a broad program to prevent fraud and corruption. Any employees or partners engaging in such conduct face immediate dismissal.

14. Monsanto reported that TIS was part of Blackwater.

15. Monsanto is killing the monarch butterfly

False


18. False


20. Monsanto did not invent Agent Orange. The U.S. government ordered Monsanto, along with other companies, to make Agent Orange for U.S. military use during the Vietnam War. The U.S. government Co-terminated making it in 1969, more than 40 years ago.