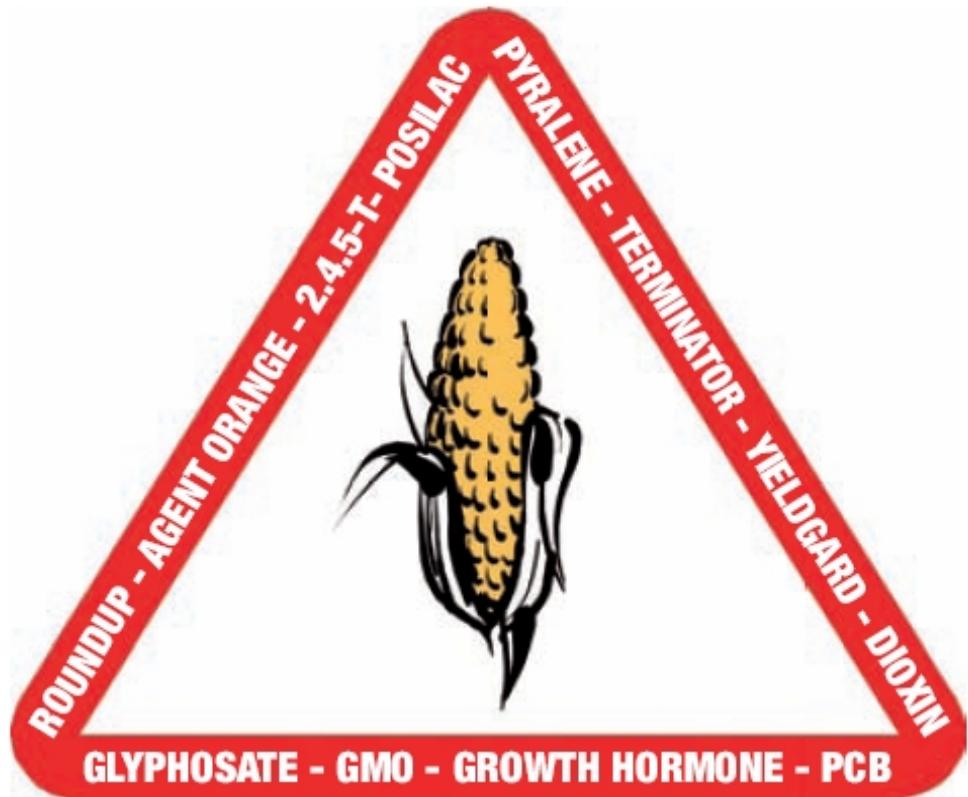


GREENPEACE  
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
COMBAT MONSANTO and SHERPA FRANCE  
PRESENT:

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MONSANTO



A FILM BY MARIE-MONIQUE ROBIN

Film seminar for the European Social Forum  
**WEDNESDAY SEPT. 17**  
Film seminar starts at **16:00** (until 18:45)  
**AT SPEGELN CINEMA**

## SUMMARY

With 17,500 employees, a 2006 sales figure of \$7.5 billion and operations in 46 countries, Monsanto is the world leader in genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as one of the most controversial corporations in industrial history.



Since its founding in 1901, the company has faced trial after trial due to the toxicity of its products, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polystyrene, devastating herbicides like Agent Orange, used during the Vietnam War, and bovine growth hormones, which are unauthorized in Canada and banned in Europe.



Today, Monsanto has reinvented itself as a “life sciences” company converted to the virtues of sustainable development. Thanks to its genetically modified seeds, engineered among other things to withstand Monsanto’s Roundup, the world’s bestselling herbicide, the company claims it wants to solve world hunger while reducing environmental damage. Where does the truth lie?

***The World According to Monsanto*** pieces together the story of the St. Louis, Missouri, corporation, calling on hitherto unpublished documents and first-hand accounts by scientists, civil society representatives, victims of the company’s toxic activities, lawyers, politicians, and representatives of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. Based on a three-year investigation in North and South America, Europe and Asia, the film tells the tale of an industrial empire that, thanks in part to misleading reports, collusion with the American government, pressure tactics and attempts at corruption, has become one of the world’s biggest seed manufacturers. It shows how the clean, green image conveyed by the company’s advertising serves as a smoke screen for Monsanto’s quest for market supremacy, to the detriment of global food security and environmental stability.

## Film maker's statement.

### **Why a film about Monsanto?**

Lots of people have asked me this question over the past three years, and my answer is always the same:

I've been travelling around the world for over 20 years, and I hear things all the time about this American multinational mostly bad things, to tell the truth.

I wanted to find out for myself and spent months surfing the Net.



I learned that Monsanto is one of the most controversial corporations of modern times, because it has systematically hidden the extreme toxicity of its products.

What about today? Is it telling us the truth about its GMOs? Can we believe it when it says that biotechnology is the solution to hunger and environmental contamination? To answer these questions, which concern us all, I set out on a mission across three continents, comparing what Monsanto says with the real world. I met dozens of eyewitnesses I hadn't identified in advance on the Web. And I'm convinced this is no time to let Monsanto take possession of crop seeds and, by extension, the world's food supply.

Marie-Monique Robin, Filmmaker and author January 21, 2007

Marie-Monique Robin is also the author of the book *Le Monde selon Monsanto. De la dioxine aux OGM, une entreprise qui vous veut du bien*, which includes a foreword by Nicolas Hulot (Éditions La Découverte / ARTE Édition).

## Comments.

***Ignacio Chapela, Berkeley biologist, USA***

"This film is an important historical milestone. In The World According to Monsanto, Marie-Monique Robin gives us truly unique insight into this dark historical moment through unprecedented, masterful interviews and footage found and new.

We witness from the mouth of the operators themselves how reason and public governance have stopped to influence the future of huge masses of people and land who are sacrificed for the profit of a few who use governments as their handmaidens.



To the extent that seeing and hearing are necessary before change is possible in such times of darkness, this film also ushers what may be the beginning of the end of an epoch ruled by greed parading as humanity, ignorance masquerading as knowledge and raw power violating all illusions of democracy and enlightened development.

The World According to Monsanto changes minds and hearts with its patient but unrelenting inquisitiveness. The evidence it provides is uncontrovertible. The film will continue to grow in importance as the real consequences of these few, last dark decades become more and more tragic."



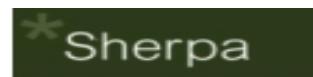
***Percy Schmeiser, Canadian farmer and activist.***

"The World According to Monsanto exposes the company's desire to control numerous aspects of agriculture and of trying to make farmers dependent on their chemicals and seed. The film shares Monsanto's terrible track record on pollution and the impact that this has had on the health of individuals. It also is a lesson on intimidation and backroom dealing with politicians. The film is a must see and a complete eye opener for anyone who believes that Monsanto acts in the best interests of anyone but themselves."

***Jonathan Matthews, activist at GM Watch, UK.***

"The World According to Monsanto brilliantly captures the toxic intent and devastating legacy of a corporation without ethics. Wide-ranging yet focused, both pacy and informative, this film is a massive wake-up call for every farmer, parent, food activist, journalist or shopper who wants to understand the vital importance of who controls our food. Marie Robin's film needs to be seen right around the globe."





## Combat-Monsanto Project Coalition of NGOs against Monsanto.

In France, the Combat Monsanto Project is supported by a Citizen Interest Group (*Groupement d'Intérêt Citoyen*), uniting the major French actors for the defence of the environment, namely Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, La Confédération Paysanne, the Fondation Sciences Citoyennes, ATTAC and Sherpa.

Sherpa was given responsibility for the coordination of the project and the creation of an internet site ([www.combat-monsanto.org](http://www.combat-monsanto.org)) which diffuses information contained in the report entitled "The World according to Monsanto" by investigative journalist Marie Monique Robin.

Sherpa is a french non-profit organisation founded in 2001 which strives to put into practise the concept of social and environmental accountability, or CSR, by public and private actors in a context of sustainable development.

(more informations at: [www.asso-sherpa.org](http://www.asso-sherpa.org) )



This project consists of denouncing, in an objective manner, the opaque and systematic actions which have given Monsanto its poor international reputation with respect to social and environmental responsibility. It aims to provide a transparent source of information for the public in order to enable institutional recognition of the socio-economic and ecological impact of the shift to a genetically-modifying culture.

Through this perspective, an alternative information website was created in March 2008 ([www.combat-monsanto.org](http://www.combat-monsanto.org)). It aims to broadcast information to a broad public and the media. It also aims to allow building of an international network of partnerships with NGOs and committed actors all around the world to coordinate global actions against Monsanto. Every organization, willing to join the network and to promote its actions, is welcome to get in touch with the project coordinators at [contact@combat-monsanto.org](mailto:contact@combat-monsanto.org).

## Biography of the author.

Listed in *Who's Who in France* since 2002

Prix Albert-Londres 1995 Freelance journalist/producer

1999 to 2001: Point du Jour

1989 to 1999 : CAPA (Chabalier & Associates Press Agency) 1988 to 1989: VI Presse, Gamma TV, Point du Jour 1984 to 1988: France

### *Le monde selon Monsanto/The World According to Monsanto*

90 min, ARTE and 12 international networks, broadcast in early 2008.

- *L'école du soupçon*, 52 min, France 5, 2007.
  - *On les appelait les dames du planning*, 52 min, France 5, 2006.
  - *Le soja de la faim*, 26 min, ARTE, 2005.
  - *Au pays des mères SOS*, 26 min, TF1, 2005.
  - *Les pirates du vivant*, 57 min, ARTE, 2005.
- Grand Prix, Festival international du reportage d'actualité et du documentaire de société (FIGRA);
- Prix Buffon, Festival international du film scientifique de Paris;
- Prix du Meilleur reportage;
- Grand Prix and Prix Ushuaïa TV, Festival international de film écologique d'Angers.
- *Blé : chronique d'une mort annoncée*, 52 min, ARTE, 2005.
  - *Chasse au pédophile : quand la rumeur tue*, 40 min, Canal+, 2004.
  - *Les enfants du silence*, 35 min, TF1, 2004.
  - *Le sixième sens*, 52 min, Canal+, 2004.
  - *Escadrons de la mort : l'école française*, Canal+/ARTE, 2003.
- Prix du meilleur documentaire politique (Laurier du Sénat);
- Prix de la meilleure investigation, FIGRA;
- Award of Merit (Latin American Studies Association/USA);
- Award for Best Documentary, Egyptian Cinema Critics Association Jury.
- *L'ère du soupçon*, 52 min, France 3, 2002.
  - *Escale à Cuba*, 75 min, France 3, 2002.
  - *Cuba : l'île aux trésors*, 52 min, Planète Câble, 2001.
  - *Paroles d'agents*, 52 min, France 2, 2001.
  - *Paroles de profs*, 52 min, France 2, 2001.
- FIPA selection.
- *Violences conjugales*, 75 min, M6, 2000.
  - *Paroles de flics*, 52 min, France 2, 2000.

- *Les cent photos du siècle*, writer/producer/chief editor for a series of 100 6-minute clips broadcast from February 1998 to February 2000 by ARTE and 30 international television networks.
  - *Petites et grandes histoires du stade de France*, 90 min, France 2, April 1998. FIPA selection 1998-1999.
  - *Mon père, le Che*, 62 min, 1997, Les Dossiers de l'Histoire, F3/RAI/Canal+ Espagne/TV Canada.
  - *Le guérillero des laboratoires*, 52 min, France 2, 1995.
  - *La faillite des paysans*, TF1, 26 min, 1997. Prix Société, Festival d'Angers.
  - *Voleurs d'yeux*, 40 min, 1995. M6; Prix Albert-Londres 1995.
  - *Le théâtre des mules*, 52 min, ARTE, 1995. FIPA official selection.
  - *Cuba l'histoire d'un mythe*, 2 x 52 min, Canal+ and ARTE, 1994.
  - *Le plus bel endroit du monde* (Bolivia), 26 min, TF1, 1994.
  - *Voleurs d'organes*, 52 min, Planète Cable/Canal+ Espagne/ARD, 1993.
- Prix du Grand documentaire, Festival d'Angers;
- Award for Best Foreign Documentary, Havana Film Festival;
- Prix du jury catholique, Festival de Monte Carlo;
- Prix Médiaville 1995.
- *Ça n'arrive qu'ailleurs* (Peru), 26 min, FR3, 1992.
- Prix de l'environnement Gaz de France.
- *Le monde selon mon frère* (Colombia), 52 min, FR3/RTVE/RTBF, 1991. Prix du Grand Reportage, Festival de Lagny-sur-Marne 1992;
- FIPA official selection.
- *Apartheid dans le sud tyrol*, 26 min, France 3, 1990.

### **Special thanks to:**

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- Friends of the Earth UK and Kirtana Chandrasekaran
- Sherpa and Benjamin Source

