



HUNGRY CORPORATIONS

Transnational Biotech Companies Colonise the Food Chain

Helena Paul and Ricarda Steinbrecher
with Devlin Kuyek and Lucy Michaels

Published:
October 2003

256 pages

Hb ISBN 1 84277 300 3
£49.95 \$75.00

Pb ISBN 1 84277 301 1
£15.95 \$22.50

SPECIAL OFFER
£14.00 + Free Postage

This book is about an issue of our times which does not yet get the attention that it deserves - the growing dominance of huge transnational corporations over every aspect of our lives from executive super-pay to private sector pension funds. The authors of this book look at one particular kind of modern corporation - the hi-tech agro-chemical and genetic engineering companies that now dominate the food chain. In this richly detailed account, they show how a handful of companies have:

- ❑ Accelerated the industrialization of agriculture and the integration of the global economy in order to gain an alarming control over the food chain.
- ❑ Penetrated the previously independent world of scholarly research both in universities and the specialized international agricultural research centres in CGIAR.
- ❑ Manipulated public opinion, including distorting our understanding of key environmental processes and issues.
- ❑ Unduly influenced regulatory agencies and national governments.
- ❑ Turned international bodies like the WTO, the World Bank, and the FAO into instruments devising rules and policies primarily of benefit to corporate growth and corporate profit.
- ❑ And now are further expanding by bullying the governments and farmers of the developing countries to accept their technologies and products.

Whether you are interested in the environment, democracy, or the development of countries in the South, the information and analysis contained in this book will prove both disturbing and empowering.

'It takes something like a global positioning satellite to get a grip on the players in the current global food system, and that is just what this book provides.... [It is] an essential reminder that the corporation is a product of human construction, not divine revelation, and that what we have done we can undo' - Brewster Kneen, author, *Farmageddon: Food and the Culture of Biotechnology*

'Hungry Corporations tells us how the biotech industry and their captive governments use Third World hunger as the justification for force feeding the world with GMO's, while it is really their own hunger for profits and power which is driving the commercialization of GM crops and foods. Written by authors who have been in the frontline of fighting the biotech giants, Hungry Corporations is a valuable resource for researchers, activists and ordinary citizens determined to defend their freedom' - Vandana Shiva, author, *Staying Alive*

'In less than a decade a handful of extremely powerful corporations have managed to gain control of the very building blocks of life. But with the scientific basis of their technology flawed, and hardly any practical results to show so far, these gene-giants now urgently need an ideological basis to justify their investment in genetic engineering. They have found it in the 800 or so million people that go hungry every day. Hungry Corporations explains how they go about it: pushing legislators to give them monopoly control, co-opting public research institutions, organizing PR campaigns, and discrediting everybody who disagrees' - Henk Hobbelink, author and Coordinator GRAIN

'Using keen historical analysis, gripping facts and solid documentation, Hungry Corporations reveals how a handful of transnational enterprises are using genetic engineering as tools for ownership and control of the global food system. Hungry Corporations [will remain] a classic for years to come.' - Hope Shand, author, *Human Nature: Agricultural Biodiversity and Farm-Based Food Security*

'Tells us how the transnational biotech companies are manipulating their reach and control in what appears to be a desperate effort to recolonise the majority world' - Devinder Sharma, food and trade policy analyst



Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF

Tel 020 7837 4014 Fax 020 7833 3960 sales@zedbooks.demon.co.uk www.zedbooks.co.uk

