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**Nominated for the Public Eye Award 2006
in the category:**

S O C I A L R I G H T S

(Human and Labor Rights)

**Nominated by: Ban Terminator Campaign,
Ottawa, Canada**

Delta & Pine Land Company (D&PL)

Headquarters: Scott, Mississippi, USA; subsidiaries in Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, China, South Africa and Turkey
Branch of trade: Plant breeding and sales of conventional and genetically-modified seed
Turnover 2004: US\$ 315 million
CEO: W. Thomas Jagodinski
Owned by: Publicly-traded corporation
Employees: 528 full-time employees, plus 102 employees of joint ventures
WEF-Participant 2006: not officially enrolled

Summary

The Delta & Pine Land Company (D&PL) is the only corporation worldwide that publicly promotes so-called "Terminator technology" and is testing the technology in greenhouse trials. Terminator technology refers to seeds that due to genetic manipulation are sterile upon harvest, to stop farmers from saving seeds for future crops. The "Ban Terminator Campaign" calls on D&PL to end all research and development in this area.

Information on the case and characteristics of irresponsible corporate behavior

D&PL and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began research on Terminator technology in 1983, and in 1998 they received the first U.S. patent. At the same time, the capability to genetically manipulate plants to create sterile seeds led to worldwide indignation. Governments, scientists, NGOs, indigenous peoples and farmer's organizations condemned Terminator technology as a danger to food sovereignty and biological diversity. Primarily, the "Ban Terminator Campaign" sees in the new technology additional profits for the seed industry, since farmers would be forced to buy new seed every year.

In 1999, two of the largest seed and agrochemical concerns, Monsanto and AstraZeneca (now Syngenta), vowed to abandon the development of Terminator seeds. In 2000, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted a *de facto* moratorium on Terminator seeds. Despite the moratorium, D&PL continued its research and promotion of Terminator technology, with support from the USDA.

D&PL intensified its lobbying in support of the development and commercialization of Terminator seeds in 2005. In a new brochure, the corporation argued that Terminator technology would

The deadline for the submission of the nominations was August 26th 2005. Later developments were considered in the summaries as far as known. 1

prevent the uncontrolled spreading of genetically modified plants, while also preventing the contamination of non-genetically modified plants. The Canadian government, which supports Terminator technology, attempted to overthrow the *de facto* moratorium at a meeting of scientific advisors to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Bangkok.

Consequences

If D&PL's efforts to commercialize Terminator seeds are successful, then the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and small farmers to their own seeds will be in danger. They will lose their food sovereignty and will be to a large degree dependent upon the corporate seed industry.

Current status and demands

In 2005, D&PL carried out the first tests of Terminator seeds in greenhouses. The corporation has said publicly that it plans to make the technology available via license agreements to other seed companies. The "Ban Terminator Campaign" calls on Delta & Pine Land to respect the will of the international community as expressed in the *de facto* moratorium. Specifically, the corporation should:

1. abandon all research and development of Terminator technology.
2. surrender all Terminator patents to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
3. halt all public-relations campaigns and government lobbying that promote this technology.

Detailed nomination: www.publiceye.ch/nominierungen

Further information and links:

- www.banterminator.org
- www.etcgroup.org