

## Letter of Initiative for the Confederation of Farmer Unions To Turkish Parliament (En/Tr)

Seeds are the essential elements of the agricultural production. Without any fertilizer or agricultural chemicals you can have the yield back, though to some limited extend, but without the seed you cannot have anything back from the land.

If you prevent the farmers from saving some seeds from its own produce for the next planting season, it means that you forced the farmer to turn to someone else. These someothers, the ones which you entitle as the owner of seeds will also own the farmers since you make the farmers dependent on them. Is it possible to implement a law that create masters for the previously independent farmers? How legitimate is to promulgate a law which means "Don't save and use any seeds for the next planting from your own production and pay to the firm which produce them"? To what extend is such a law consistent with the criterion of justice?

Dear MP,

We don't ask these questions to speak to your conscience. We believe that someone's conscience is under his/her responsibility, pertaining to his/her own realm. We the farmers, conceive interfering to this realm as disrespectfullness and never act as such.

But with the new Seed Law you intend to make the corporations the owner of the seeds. And it means that these corporate firms take the charge of the agriculture. We just ask whether you think that to make the performers of a profession dependent on others who will profit from them, is consistent with just, egalitarian and libertarian thoughts? You supposedly perform your duty under an institution which is supposed to provide the conditions for justice, equality and freedom. Corporations that monopolizes the seeds would not only dominate the agriculture but also the fate of the food. We think you know that, so if you will delibaretley approve a law which culminates in the dominance of a few corporates on the food production, this will not only upset but also frighten us. We are just curious about that.

Seed monopolies in the world are a handful. But through lobbies that they establish, they enable themselves to implement laws to their own benefits. Laws that are made to the benefit of multinational corporations, influence the lives of more than 3 billion peasants.

Farmers and peasants think that women, men and their families;

- Have the right to determine the kind of the plant they want to produce
- Have the right to denounce the plants which would be harmful economically, ecologically and culturally
- Have the right to determine the forms and conditions of farming they want to perform
- Have the right to save and develop local agricultural knowledge
- Have the right to use agricultural facilities
- Have the right to choose personally and collectively their product types, quantities, qualities, and the particular way of breeding and cultivation democratically.
- Have the right to choose a technology that is convenient to human health and ecology and to use this particular technology in breeding and cultivation.
- Have the right to develop and grow their native species.

The legal draft which is a product of lobbying by the Seed Corporations is now in front of you. And the seed and agriculture rights determined by 3 billion farmers who labors by their own is already explained above. We want you to make a comparison between the two. We do not want any ammendments to this law since we, the farmers, do not see

any correct article in it. If there is a need for a regulation concerning seed production we should decide what to do together. At first, the favorable conditions for such a public debate should be created. We, whose ideas were always overlooked, want to participate and express our claims regarding an issue that is vital for us. That is why this legal draft should not be approved.

You should consider again for whom and for whose interests are you pursuing by approving this draft. Do not take into consideration the clamour and noise that seed corporations made. Do not surrender to their aggressiveness. Their own corporations will also be sold to global monopolies in 5 years and they will be alone with the guilt of making farmers and consumers dependent.

Dear MP's,

Do not turn our country to a testing area for the global monopolies. Refrain from burying the farmers. And respect the farmer's universal rights concerning seed production and agriculture by not approving this draft. And do not contribute to the making of a slavery law in the 21th century.

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