

MONSANTO'S THEFT OF TURKEY'S PURPLE CARROT

ROBBING FARMERS FOR PROFIT GAIN!

Monsanto's theft of Turkey's purple carrot shows how companies steal farmers' varieties, take them out of the commons and make them private property, only to sell them back to the very farmers they stole them from!

Biopiracy of commons: stealing farmers' own variety!

A certain Mr. John Wester purchased purple carrot seed at a farmers' market in Adana, Turkey and sent it to Monsanto's company, Seminis. Seminis simply planted the Turkish seeds and quickly selected the best carrots for their purpose, such as those that had desirable root shape and purple color. This simple selection process was completed over six generations in California between 2000–2004. Seminis then applied for and received Plant Variety Protection over the variety in the United States and later in Europe. This gave Monsanto the sole right to sell "their" purple carrot seed.

Seminis claimed that they got the seeds legally, namely in the same way as collecting from the wild or from remote isolated areas for the purposes of conservation. But this is untrue! They stole a variety developed through farmers' efforts over generations, claimed it as their own and sold it for profit! This is biopiracy.

