

Thousands worldwide march against Monsanto and GM crops

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Activists protest against Monsanto on May 23, 2015, in Toulouse, France

Thousands of people hit the streets in cities across the world Saturday to protest against the American biotechnology giant Monsanto and its genetically modified crops and pesticides.

The third annual March Against Monsanto—begun by the Occupy movement—was held in upwards of 400 cities in more than 40 countries

from the Americas to Africa and Europe.

About 2,500 people staged anti-Monsanto protests in the Swiss cities of Basel and Morges, where the company has its headquarters for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Up to 3,000 protesters, rallied by environmental organisations including Greenpeace and anti-capitalist group Stop TAFTA, gathered in Paris, with Monsanto's market-leading herbicide Roundup the main targets of protesters' anger.

The controversial product's main ingredient was recently classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the World Health Organization.

"Looking for mass suicide? Go for Roundup," read one placard at another French protest in the western city of Rennes.

In Burkina Faso, around 500 people marched in the capital Ouagadougou against the US giant, which introduced GM cotton into the west African country in 2003.

Demonstrators demanded a 10-year moratorium on the planting of Monsanto seeds so "independent research can be conducted" into the effects of the technology.

Up to 1,000 anti-Monsanto activists also gathered in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg as the sun was setting for a minute's silence "in homage to the existing and future victims poisoned by pesticides," according to the organisers.



A woman holds a sign during a march against US agrochemical giant Monsanto on May 23, 2015, in Santiago, Chile

There were similar scenes in Los Angeles and Rio de Janeiro.

Up to 500 protesters, including families with small children, took part in a colourful and good-natured rally under the sun in Los Angeles.

"I'm not a science experiment," read the sign of a young girl in a pushchair, while demonstrators chanted: "Hell no GMO!"

"Monsanto is doing terrible things and that's why we're here," said protester Carole Walker.

Megan Cliburn added: "We should be able to know what's in our food when we are eating; what we are putting in our body."



People protest biotechnology giant Monsanto and its genetically modified crops and pesticides on May 23, 2015 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Another 250 people danced and sang in a noisy demonstration in Rio, accusing Monsanto of "bioterrorism."

About 1,000 people in Chile's capital Santiago demanded the withdrawal of Monsanto from the country and the end of production of [genetically modified foods](#).

"We do not want GMOs on our plates," said Ivan Santandreu, president of the movement Chile sin Transgenicos.

Monsanto did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

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