



March 13, 2012

Office of the Global Compact  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York City, New York

RE: Monsanto Company Adjustment Request

To whom it may concern:

Earlier this year, after much review and analysis, Monsanto decided to formally report on its sustainability performance using the Global Reporting Initiative's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. As part of the decision process, it became readily apparent that a GRI report with an integrated UN Global Compact Communication on Progress would be the most comprehensive and efficient means of providing a public disclosure to stakeholders (e.g., investors, consumers, civil society, governments, etc.) on our progress in implementing the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Indeed, as stated by Georg Kell, "Companies participating in both initiatives have long stressed the understanding that the GRI is a practical expression of the Global Compact."

The decision to provide a GRI report was accompanied by a rigorous process to assess the time frame for the sustainability report on a continuing basis. The fiscal year of Monsanto, which is from September 1 to August 31, was considered, but rejected due to conflicts with other reporting obligations and disclosure requirements assumed by Monsanto as a publicly traded company. A review of other company initiatives and consideration of Monsanto's previous sustainability reports counseled in favor of reporting on a calendar-year basis. Given that our prior sustainability reports presented data on a calendar-year basis, this decision also enables consistent comparisons and measurements of improvement year over year. As such, Monsanto plans to issue its GRI sustainability report based on a calendar-year cycle of information collection, analysis and performance. It is anticipated that this initial GRI report for 2011 will be issued by June 30, 2012.

Accordingly, Monsanto respectfully requests that the COP submission deadline be deferred to June 30, which is a 3.5 month deferral from our current deadline. We understand that this request may result in a one-time deadline deferral of up to 11 months.

Sincerely,

Brian Robert Lowry  
Deputy General Counsel,  
Office of Policy, Stewardship, Regulation & Government