

**Open letter to the People of China, President Xi Jin-ping, and Premier Li Ke-qiang
concerning ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta
致中国人民、习近平主席与李克强总理的公开信：关于中化集团并购先正达**

26 February 2016

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The undersigned representatives of civil society organisations convey our concerns and express our opposition to what would be the biggest acquisition by a Chinese company to date—ChemChina's bid to acquire Syngenta for USD 43 billion (around RMB 300 billion) in February 2016.

2016年2月中国化工集团宣布，将以430亿美元（大约3000亿人民币）并购先正达公司。这将是中国公司最大的并购案。签署本公开信的公民社会组织希望就这一并购案提出我们的担心，并表达我们的反对。

We are concerned about this acquisition because Syngenta Corporation is the inventor and primary manufacturer of the world's highly hazardous agrochemicals, including atrazine and paraquat.

我们对该项并购担心，因为先正达是世界某些高危险性农药的发明方和主要制造商。

Many scientists, including a number of Chinese researchers, are increasingly concerned about the herbicide atrazine (known as *xiu qu jin* in China) due to its impacts on human health and ecosystems. It is a known “endocrine disruptor” that can damage reproductive systems and increase the risk of certain cancers. In 2005 atrazine was banned in the European Union.¹

许多科学家，包括部分中国研究者，对于除草剂阿特拉津（在中国称为“莠去津”）对人类健康与生态系统的影响越来越担心。人们已经知道它是“内分泌干扰剂”，可以损害生殖系统并增加癌症的风险，因此2005年已经在欧盟禁止^[1]。

There are currently over 600 herbicide products containing atrazine registered in China.

目前，在中国“农药登记”中，含阿特拉津（莠去津）的除草剂品种超过600种。

Paraquat (known as *bai cao ku* in China) is another highly hazardous herbicide that Syngenta

sells globally under the name Gramoxone. It is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world even though it has been banned in 36 countries due to its negative accumulative health impacts such as eye injury, skin burn and irritation even death.²

百草枯（Paraquat）是另外一种高危险农药，被先正达以“克无踪”（Gramoxone）名称在全球销售，是世界最广泛使用的一种除草剂；因为它有积累性的危害，包括眼睛损伤、皮肤灼烧、刺激、甚至死亡等，36个国家已经禁止百草枯。^[2]

Although the Chinese regulatory departments announced that China would stop sales of paraquat beginning 1 July, 2016³ we have learned that China Paraquat output is expected to grow nearly 6% in the next four years⁴ and Syngenta Nantong is proceeding to expand its 4,000 tonne/year output of paraquat to 10,000 tonnes/year.⁵

尽管中国监管机构已经宣布于2016年7月1日停止销售百草枯^[3]，我们了解到中国百草枯产量今后四年预计继续增长大约6%^[4]而且先正达南通公司正在进行将其百草枯4,000吨/年产量扩产到10,000吨/年。^[5]

Over the past decade, we have witnessed with much concern how six multinationals, including Syngenta, have taken control of more than 75% of the world's high-tech seed and pesticide markets. The increased control of these multinationals has led to the rapid erosion of farmers' seed systems and public breeding programs.

过去十年来，我们目睹了先正达等六家跨国公司如何控制世界75%以上的高技术种子与农药市场，对生物多样性造成了破坏，对此我们非常担心。这些跨国公司日益增加的控制，导致原有的农民的种子系统与公共育种项目迅速丧失。

As a country of origin for soybeans, China was self-sufficient in the crop until 1995. Since then, however, soybean imports have skyrocketed—from 1.1 million tonnes in 1996 to 81.69 million tonnes in 2015—with most of the imports consisting of GM soybeans, which China started importing in 1997.

中国是大豆的原产地，中国大豆到1995年一直自给自足。但是中国大豆从1996年进口110万吨大豆剧增到2015年进口8169万吨，从1997年开始，进口大豆绝大部分为转基因大豆。

We want to draw Chinese leaders' attention to the fact that the US, Brazil and Argentina now produce 80% of the world's soybeans⁶ with about 60% imported to only one country,

China.⁷ More land is used to grow soybeans in these countries than any other crop. This situation is neither sustainable nor favourable for global food security and must be changed. China must return and adhere to a policy of self-reliance.

我们希望提请中国领导关注这样的事实，美国、巴西与阿根廷目前生产世界大豆的 80%^[6]，而其中 60%全部出口给一个国家，中国。^[7]其后果是，这些国家种植大豆的农田面积超过他们种植任何其他农作物的农田面积。这对于全球食物供应而言不可持续，必须改变。中国必须回到并坚持其食物自给政策。

Syngenta is the third largest GM seed producer in the world, and known for introducing the first generation of GM crops. The company is also actively developing a next generation of GM crops that could present even greater risks, such as SYHT0H2 soybeans, RR 2 Yield-SCN, GM maize Agrisure VipteraG (MIR162) and Golden Rice.⁸ These GM crops could cause the widespread and uncontrollable contamination of China's main staple food crop, putting the health and food security of Chinese consumers and the livelihoods of Chinese farmers at risk.

先正达是世界第三大转基因种子生产公司，因推出的第一代转基因作物而臭名昭著。先正达正在积极开发可能带来更大危险的下一代转基因作物，例如转基因大豆 SYHT0H2、转基因大豆 RR2 Yield-SCN、转基因玉米 Agrisure VipteraG (MIR162) 与“黄金大米”^[8]，可能对中国主粮作物造成广泛无法控制的污染，对中国消费者的健康与食品安全以及中国农民的生计造成危险。

At the same time, people around the world are increasingly concerned about the close relationships large Chinese corporations are developing with multinational seed and agrochemical companies.

在此同时，世界各国人民对于某些巨型中国公司正在与跨国种子与农业化学品公司发展紧密联系越来越担心。

ChemChina's subsidiary Adama is the world's seventh largest agrochemical company, and the world's biggest seller of off-patent agrochemicals, with sales of more than USD3 billion in 2014.⁹

中国化工集团的子公司艾道玛 (Adama) 已经是世界第七大农业化工公司，但也是世界过期专利农业化学品最大销售公司，2014 年销售额超过 30 亿美元。^[9]

We are concerned that ChemChina's merger with pesticide and seed company Syngenta will lead the Chinese company to further integrate agrochemical sales with its plant breeding

activities.

我们担心与农药和种子公司先正达的并购将造成中国化工集团进一步整合农药销售与作物育种的活动。

We realise that there is an urgent need to boost agriculture production. China accounts for 19% of the worlds' population but its available arable land for agriculture is shrinking fast. In addition, it faces other major challenges, including damaged soils, water contamination and climate change. China's leaders are faced with the long-term dilemma of how to feed so many people and improve nutrition with so little arable land.

我们理解农业急需提高产出。中国占世界人口 19%，但是其农业可耕地正在迅速缩减，而且面临其他主要挑战：受破坏的土壤、水污染，与气候变化。中国领导人面临的长期困境是用如此少的可耕地喂养众多的人口，同时改善其营养水平。

We appreciate that President Xi Jin-ping has put a lot of political capital into emphasizing food security for the population, and that China has actually done a great job of improving agricultural productivity. Despite the fundamental need to ensure sufficient food for the population, food safety and improved nutrition must be placed at the heart of this important decision.

我们赞赏习近平主席强调中国人民粮食安全，为此已经投入了大量的政治资本，而且，中国在改进农业生产能力方面实际上取得了巨大成就。除了为中国人民确保足够食物的基本需要，也必须将食品安全置于这种重要决定的核心。

This requires promoting ecological agriculture and abandoning chemical farming and transgenic agriculture.¹⁰ Ecological farming has gained international recognition as the best way to feed the world and address climate change.¹¹

这意味着强调生态农业与摒弃“化学农业和转基因农业”。^[10]生态农业是获得国际承认的养活世界与应对气候变化的最好方式。^[11]

People around the world, hand in hand with China's civil society, are eager to see China take a leading role in safeguarding food safety and human health, in promoting ecological agriculture, and in regulating existing agrochemicals, GM crops, chemical food additives and other food safety issues.

世界各国人民，与中国公民社会携手，渴望中国在捍卫人类安全性与健康、优先促进生态农业，切实监管所有现有农药、转基因作物、食品化学添加剂和其他食品安全相关问题方面，发挥世界领导作用。

Decades of experiences have shown that the answer to ensuring safe and nutritious food for the population lies in the hands of farmers and not the biotech industry.

数十年的经验显示，确保全球人口足够食物的答案，在农民的手中，而不是在生物技术产业的实验室中。

Accordingly, we request that President Xi Jin-ping, Premier Li Ke-qiang and the People of China take the necessary steps to assure that ChemChina's acquisition of Syngenta is vetoed and invalidated.

我们为此请求习近平主席、李克强总理和中国人民采取必要的步骤，确保中国化工集团并购先正达遭到否决。

The undersigned,
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3. GRAIN
GRAIN，跨国非政府组织
4. Moms Across America (MAA)

妈妈们纵横美国 (MAA)

5. Moms Across The World

妈妈们纵横世界，跨国非政府组织

6. Consumers Union of Japan

日本消费者协会

7. No! GMO Campaign Japan

不要转基因运，日本

8. The Friends of the Landless, Finland

9. European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility, Netherlands

10. Multiwatch, Switzerland

11. Bread for All, Switzerland

12. Swissaid, Switzerland

13. Berne Declaration, Switzerland

14. SAG, Switzerland

15. Solifonds, Switzerland

16. Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland

17. Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund, Switzerland

18. Pro Natura Basel, Switzerland

19. biorespect, Switzerland

20. Alternative Linke Bern, Switzerland

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http://www.unep.org/dewa/agassessment/reports/IAASTD/EN/Agriculture%20at%20a%20Crossroads_Global%20Report%20%28English%29.pdf

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Correction: A previous version of this letter stated that ChemChina is the exclusive distributor of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide in China. Sinochem International (a wholly owned subsidiary of Sinochem Group, another giant state-owned corporation) is now the exclusive distributor of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide in China and many Southeast Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand—not ChemChina.