

Judge overturns Monsanto's permit for GM soybeans in favor of Mexican beekeepers

A small group of beekeepers in Mexico has inflicted a blow on biotech giant Monsanto, which has halted the company's ambitions to plant thousands of hectares of soybeans genetically modified to resist the company's pesticide [Roundup](#). A district judge in the state of Yucatán last month overturned a permit issued to Monsanto by Mexico's agriculture ministry, Sagarpa, and environmental protection agency, Semarnat, in June 2012 that allowed commercial planting of [Roundup-ready soybeans](#)

In withdrawing the permit, the judge was convinced by the scientific evidence presented about the threats posed by GM soy crops to honey production in the Yucatán peninsula, which includes Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatán states. Co-existence between honey production and GM soybeans is not possible, the judge ruled. Central to the ruling was the Mexican constitution, specifically the government's obligation to fully consult indigenous communities before making any major decision about what happens, including what is grown, on their territory. The judge ordered planting to stop and gave Sagarpa six months to carry out full and proper consultations with indigenous farmers – which it should have done before the permit was granted in 2012.

Read the full, original article: [Sweet victory for Mexico beekeepers as Monsanto loses GM permit](#)