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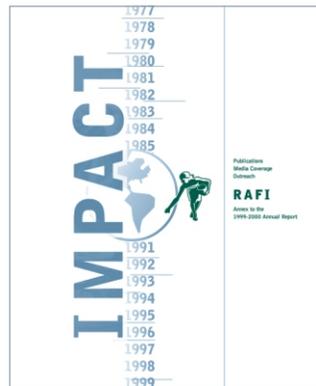
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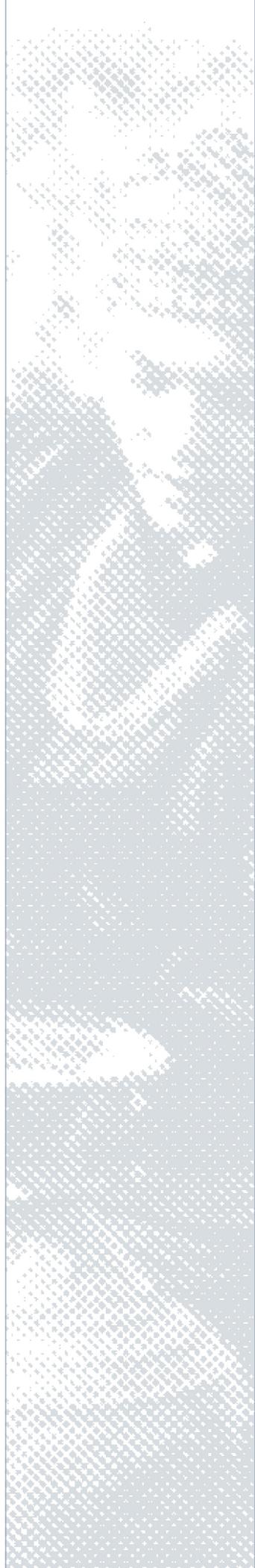


**RAFI**

1999-2000 Annual Report



**ANNEXES:** There are two annexes to this Annual Report. One is a summary of RAFI's Impact for the year. The other is RAFI's Financial Report, including audited financial statement. Both are available in print upon request. They are also available on our Web site: [www.rafi.org](http://www.rafi.org)



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RAFI Board of Trustees and Staff, 1999-2000



## A Message From the President

This Annual Report marks a time of many changes in RAFI. By the time the next report rolls around, the organization will have a new name and logo and new offices in Winnipeg, Canada. RAFI – by whatever name – will also have a new President.

We give up the name “RAFI” with considerable misgiving. RAFI traces its history back to a meeting of international civil society food activists that took place in Canada in 1977. It was then that Cary Fowler, Hope Shand, and Pat Mooney began working together on the “seeds” issue. The name “RAFI”, however, was not adopted until Pat Mooney formally joined Hope and Cary in the Rural Advancement Fund in 1984, and then incorporated the Rural Advancement Foundation International in 1985. It has been “RAFI” ever since.

The name change comes about because RAFI – incorporated in the Netherlands and in Canada – is also incorporating in the United States for charitable tax purposes. In the eyes of government, RAFI’s name is too close to that of our oldest and dearest ally in the United States – RAFI-USA. For more than a decade now, RAFI and RAFI-USA have worked together very closely, and RAFI-USA has accepted fiduciary responsibility for some grants made for our common work in the United States. Together, RAFI and RAFI-USA have concluded that it is time for RAFI to obtain its own legal status in the USA. As part of the transition process, Hope Shand moved from her post at RAFI-USA to formally join RAFI in January of 2000. Now the time has come to give RAFI a new name, one that will not confuse our backers in that country.

The new name also signals an expansion of RAFI’s mandate and work, now encompassing a wide set of new technologies, such as nanotechnology and

neural sciences, that we believe will have a profound impact on the world – especially the poor – in the years ahead. We hope that the new name will more accurately describe the range of activities important to RAFI. Be assured, however, that RAFI is by no means abandoning its vital work on agricultural biodiversity, bio-piracy, biotechnology, or our deep concern for human genetic diversity. The scope of RAFI’s endeavours are well described in this report, and our new work is showcased in our recent joint publication with the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, titled “The ETC Century”.

As I write, RAFI is also in the midst of consolidating its headquarters in Winnipeg, and making a modest increase in staff. The Ottawa office will close in April of 2001. The consolidation is coming about in part because one of the other RAFI “originals” – Jean Christie – who was at the meeting with Cary, Hope, and Pat in 1977, has decided to move on after many years on the boards of both RAFI and RAFI-USA, and then as RAFI’s Director of International Liaison since 1992. Although Jean is leaving the staff, I know we will be looking to her for advice and guidance in the years ahead, and in her many endeavours.

With Jean’s departure and the closing of our Ottawa office, we are also losing our invaluable accountant, Maurice St. Pierre. Maurice has been the mastermind behind RAFI’s excellent audited reports and financial reputation since 1991. His brilliant management of our finances will be sorely missed.

With all these comings and goings, I have also decided that it is time for me to step down from the post of President, which I have held since RAFI’s founding. I take this step with mixed feelings. I will certainly miss the executive committee

teleconference calls, board meetings, seminars, and the updates and debates that swirl around RAFI, all of which are so much a part of the unique work and style of the organization.

As in past years, I commend this report for your reading, and I encourage all those who have supported RAFI in the past to continue their support for what is surely one of the most effective, experienced, and innovative advocacy organizations in civil society.

Yours sincerely,



Sven Hamrell  
President  
The Rural Advancement Foundation International



A Message From the President

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## Programme Overview

During the year 2000, RAFI developed a new, more integrated conceptual framework for our work. Following the informal publication of Pat Mooney's paper, "The ETC Century," RAFI adopted the ETC Framework of "Erosion, Technology, and Concentration," for our programme for the current year and up to 2003. This Annual Report presents the year's work under these headings. Under "Erosion" we include all of RAFI's work against the erosion of

biodiversity, equity, and rights – whether Farmers' Rights or indigenous peoples' rights, lost to the global assault of intellectual property "rights." Under "Technology" are included all RAFI's activities, which analyse the potential impacts of new technologies. Under "Concentration" are all RAFI analyses of corporate concentration and the parallel concentration of power in the world's inter-governmental arena.

## ETC – Erosion

(of Biodiversity, Equity, and Rights)

### DIVERSITY:

- Proposing policies to protect threatened agricultural diversity continued to be at the heart of RAFI's raison d'être during 1999-2000. The five-year old, 14-country Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation programme (CBDC) remained one of the mechanisms through which RAFI worked with activists and researchers on five continents to achieve this end. As an active member of the CBDC, RAFI contributed substantially to planning the policy and gender components of its second four-year phase – at meetings in Chile and the Netherlands. RAFI presented CBDC policy workshops in these countries, and took advantage of having staff in Latin America to conduct a speaking tour and workshops with CBDC partners, other civil society organizations, and government officials in Brazil and Argentina. RAFI was instrumental in bringing the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada's (USC) Mali programme into CBDC's future work.

- RAFI continued to play a watchdog role on issues of agricultural biodiversity at the Biodiversity Convention (CBD), the Commission on Genetic Res-

ources for Food and Agriculture of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). At each inter-governmental meeting that RAFI attended, we prepared material; produced analyses of the deliberations for delegates, observers, and press; and intervened (often in cooperation with other civil society representatives) as official observers in the proceedings. We undertook several actions on food security and intellectual property with the CGIAR and its member agricultural research centres, and worked with the Seed Savers Network in the USA to raise concerns about the loss of vegetable diversity resulting from corporate cost cutting.

- In January, two of RAFI's staff attended a Biodiversity Convention meeting in Montreal, the objective of which was to negotiate an international Bio-Safety Protocol. With other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), RAFI played a critical role during these negotiations. We briefed Latin American governments, planned seminars for delegates, and organized and spoke at a civil society press conf-

erence and with the media on the issue of bio-safety. RAFI's Silvia Ribeiro also chaired a meeting between the CSOs and governments of the so-called "Miami Group" countries – the five countries responsible for stalling the Bio-Safety Convention.

- RAFI continued to monitor negotiations concerning revisions to the FAO's International Undertaking on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a treaty that will govern the movement of the world's most important seed stocks and breeding materials for global food security. Though progress was painfully slow during most of the year, negotiations intensified in August 2000 at a meeting in Tehran. RAFI was the only CSO invited to attend the continued negotiations at a closed-door meeting of the "Contact Group" of 40 governments planned for November 2000. RAFI also raised concerns about the Undertaking at the Biodiversity Convention's plenary in Nairobi, and pressed for a broad definition of Farmers' Rights – including protection for the right of farmers to save seed. The likely outcome of these negotiations is an Undertaking weaker than RAFI would have liked, but stronger than was initially proposed. It will almost certainly have legally binding status as a Protocol to the CBD, or the equivalent.

- In July 2000, RAFI published a Genotype entitled Earmarked for Extinction, about a decision by Seminis, the world's largest vegetable seed company based in Mexico, to cease sales of about 2000 vegetable varieties. Our analysis warns that seed industry consolidation is dramatically narrowing the availability of non-hybrid vegetable varieties, and a wealth of seed diversity is being lost forever.

- RAFI Executive Director Pat Mooney spent the year 2000 in Bolivia, and while there, conducted numerous briefings and seminars with farmers' organizations, civil society groups, and government officials. As a result of these efforts, the Bolivian



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government adopted a policy that prohibits the field-testing of genetically modified potatoes in Bolivia – especially important since Bolivia is a centre of genetic diversity for potatoes.

- Again during 1999-2000, RAFI contributed substantially to global thinking and policy debate about the erosion of farmers' control in agriculture resulting from intellectual property regimes. In April 2000, after monitoring CGIAR's intellectual property debates, RAFI issued a Genotype entitled The Spillover, based on CIMMYT's Revised Patent Policy – a critical part of that institute's newly adopted intellectual property policy. (CIMMYT is the International Centre for the Improvement of Wheat and Maize.) This study led to a larger RAFI paper on alternatives to intellectual property in the CGIAR, entitled In Search of Higher Ground. It was subsequently published as a RAFI Occasional

## **BIOPIRACY:**

Research and action to expose the erosion of community-based knowledge and intellectual integrity – and to oppose biopiracy globally – remained one of the largest components of RAFI's programme in 1999-2000. (Biopiracy is a term RAFI coined, and is now popularly used worldwide to describe the appropriation of biological resources, and the traditional knowledge about them.)

- RAFI continued to support the Southeast Asian Anti-Biopiracy Programme, currently managed by Philippines-based SEARICE. In February 2000, we attended their programme-planning meeting in Singapore, where research goals were set and plans for the coming years were made. We conducted patent searches and responded to a steady stream of requests from SEARICE partners for research on suspected cases of piracy in South East Asia. While

Paper, and sparked widespread debate.

- Under a writing contract with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and in cooperation with a re-constituted "Crucible Group," RAFI's Hope Shand coordinated and wrote a new book on policy options for genetic resources, intellectual property, and biodiversity, entitled Seeding Solutions. Co-published by IDRC, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, this volume was written in the same multi-viewpoint style, and as a sequel to the 1993 book People, Plants and Patents. It provides an overview for policymakers on the facts, fights, and fora relevant to genetic resources and intellectual property. It also reviews some of the major technological and socio-political developments that influence and inform the bio-policy debate.

in Singapore, RAFI's Julie Delahanty provided technical advice to the ASEAN working group, who were developing draft legislation on access to genetic resources in South East Asia.

- During 1999-2000, opposition to biopiracy consumed much of the time of RAFI's Mexican-based researcher, Silvia Ribeiro. RAFI worked with partner CSOs to investigate dramatic cases of biopiracy in Latin America. One such case was that of a large US government-funded bio-prospecting agreement – involving the University of Georgia; a research institute in Mexico; a Welsh biotech company; and the indigenous communities of Chiapas, Mexico. RAFI also protested a US patent on Mexico's yellow bean. RAFI's Genotype on Mexican bean biopiracy was picked up by the Wall Street Journal – resulting in a page-one article.

• In each case, RAFI established excellent working relations with both indigenous peoples' organizations, and others in Latin America. We worked with these organizations to gather information and publicize new revelations as they emerged. We conducted and/or participated in workshops on biopiracy with indigenous people; civil society organizations; and government representatives in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, and Nicaragua. We mounted a successful high profile effort to attract media attention, build public opposition to biopiracy in Latin America, and press for legal protection from such abuses. In Mexico, we hired a research team to document four additional biopiracy cases, and managed to focus considerable media attention on biopiracy in that country. In Africa, we conducted research on the piracy of Tuli cattle from Zambia.

• With the help of a consultant, RAFI continued development of a popular 'kit' on biopiracy, for use by farmers' and other civil society organizations from the South. It is to be published in early 2001.

• In a high-profile splash that was as entertaining as it was informative, RAFI, SEARICE, and the civil society "Coalition Against Biopiracy" launched the "Captain Hook Awards" for Biopiracy at COP 5 in Nairobi. At a mid-day ceremony in the lobby of the conference hall, hundreds of policy-makers from around the world watched and listened as citizens' organizations presented a "pirate hook" to companies and governments (in absentia!) that have pirated biological resources and knowledge from peoples of the South. Then the COP delegates were treated to accolades for citizens' organizations and governments that had successfully challenged biopiracy. Captain Hook posters were produced and circulated at the conference, publicizing 14 notorious examples of biopiracy, and eight exemplary actions to oppose it. When the meeting was over,



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none of the colourful posters produced by RAFI for the event were left on the walls!

- Importantly, the year did see some concrete legal actions against biopiracy, which attests to a growing official awareness of its worldwide implications. As a result of RAFI's alert for instance, the Colombia-based International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the FAO announced that they would legally challenge the US Enola bean patent as a violation of the 1994 Trust agreement, which obliges them to protect in trust germplasm from intellectual property claims. The Indian government filed an official request to the US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) for re-examination of the Basmati rice patent that RAFI so vociferously opposed the year before. In late 1999, the PTO cancelled a patent granted to a US citizen for a sacred plant native to the Amazonian rainforest,

## **TERMINATOR AND "TRAITOR" TECHNOLOGIES:**

For two years, RAFI has mounted a global campaign to expose the insidious implications of the genetically engineered, seed sterilizing "Terminator Technology," and its close cousins, the "Traitor" technologies as RAFI has dubbed them. All of these newly patented applications of biotechnology control the expression of genetic traits (hence "Traitor") with external chemical "switches." With the Terminator, it is the process of biological reproduction itself that is switched off by the chemical trigger – which would force farmers to purchase seed each year because their harvested seed is sterile. With Traitor technologies, it could be any of a million other genetic traits that a company might want to switch on or off – for good or ill. If companies are allowed to engineer seeds that perform only with the application of a proprietary pesticide or fertilizer, it would reinforce chemical dependencies in and both

popularly known as "ayahuasca". Though RAFI did not mount the legal challenge, we were the first to unearth and publicize the patent in 1995. These and many other examples illustrate that policy makers in the South have gained greater understanding of agricultural biopiracy. It has become a legitimate concern for governments and agricultural research institutes around the world.

- With limited staff and resources, RAFI has not been able to carry out plans to bring the issue of life patenting to the International Court of Justice (or World Court) in The Hague. We continue to believe that a sustained effort with European-based multi-lateral institutions and selected governments could achieve a strategically useful World Court Advisory Opinion against life patenting, and we hope to pursue this strategy in the coming year.

agriculture – and both farmers and food security would be held hostage by these "Gene Giants". Today, patents and licensing agreements are typically used by the Gene Giants to prevent farmers from saving or re-using proprietary seed from their harvest. A typical patent provides an exclusive legal monopoly for 20 years – but in reality, Terminator is a mono-poly with no expiration date. It's the perfect tool for a corporate seed industry in a global market, because it destroys the concept of national seed sovereignty. In 1999-2000, RAFI continued its research and worldwide campaign against these technologies – giving speeches, workshops, seminars, and interviews on five continents.

- Corporate Gene Giants Monsanto and Astra Zeneca publicly announced that they would not commercialize Terminator seeds. Nevertheless,

RAFI's research reveals that industry and public sector researchers continue to develop these technologies with the goal of commercializing suicide seeds.

- RAFI contracted the services of a Canadian microbiologist to analyse new Terminator and Traitor patents as we unearthed them, and we published a Communiqué entitled Suicide Seeds on the Fast Track. It provided an update on the technologies, their implications for farmers and commercial agriculture, and mounting opposition to genetic seed sterilization by Southern governments and international organizations. We issued eight RAFI News Releases on Terminator and Traitor technologies, as new information and analyses emerged.
- In March 2000, Hope Shand testified as an expert witness before a House Environment Committee in the state of Maryland (USA), in support of a bill that proposed to prohibit the use of Terminator technology in that state. The legislation did not pass, but testimony by RAFI, farmers' organizations, and environmentalists brought considerable attention to this controversial new technology and the role of the US Department of Agriculture and biotech companies in promoting suicide seeds.
- In May, two of RAFI's staff attended the Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP 5) at the Convention on Biodiversity in Nairobi, where Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (dubbed Terminator and Traitor) were on the agenda. RAFI prepared an in-depth background paper on Terminator/Traitor for COP 5 which was widely distributed to government delegates, CSOs, and the media. RAFI's research revealed that seven new Terminator patents were awarded to industry and public sector researchers in 1999 and that at least one company, Astra Zeneca, conducted field trials on Traitor technology in the UK. We prepared and disseminated updates on



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Terminator technology and patents; ran a Terminator seminar for delegates; and presented the Captain Hook Awards. RAFI also edited and produced two issues of the popular civil society news-sheet Biotalk (Volume 7) for delegates and media, and after the conference issued a press release, COP 5 Cops Out, summarizing its outcomes in relation to the Terminator and related technologies. RAFI and partner CSOs recommended that COP 5 ban Terminator technology, and that genetic trait control technologies not be approved by parties for field testing or commercial use.

- Despite strong opposition to Terminator, expressed clearly by many of the world's nations, the CBD approved a weaker recommendation calling for a moratorium on the field-testing and commercialization of Terminator and Traitor technologies.
- Related Publications: RAFI published the material listed on this page as part of its programme against "Erosion".

### **RAFI PUBLICATIONS, 1999-2000**

- Seeding Solutions, Vol. 1: Policy options for genetic resources: People, Plants and Patents Revisited; book co-published by IDRC, IPGRI, and the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation; 2000
- RAFI Communiqué Vol. 64; February/March 2000; Suicide Seeds on the Fast Track
- RAFI Communiqué Vol. 65; May/June 2000; Biopiracy Update
- RAFI Occasional Paper Vol. 6, no. 1; September 2000; In Search of Higher Ground
- Genotype; December 22, 1999; Messages From Chiapas "Bioprospecting" Dispute

- Genotype; January 4, 2000; Update on Basmati Rice Patent (with The Berne Declaration and the Gene Campaign)
- Genotype; January 17, 2000; Mexican Bean Biopiracy
- Genotype; April 12, 2000; The Spillover from CIMMYT's Revised Patent Policy
- News Release; December 1, 1999; Biopiracy Project in Chiapas, Mexico Denounced by Mayan Indigenous Groups
- News Release; May 17, 2000; The Captain Hook Awards
- News Release; October 4, 1999; Terminator Terminated?
- News Release; October 29, 1999; USDA Must Abandon Terminator Technology
- News Release; November 26, 1999; "Trait" Sanctions?
- News Release; February 25, 2000; Suicide Seeds on the Fast Track
- News Release; March 24, 2000; USDA Betrays Public Trust with Two New Terminator Patents
- News Release; May 12, 2000; Terminator on Trial
- News Release; June 16, 2000; Despite Mounting Opposition from Southern Nations, Delegates At the Biodiversity Convention Fail to Ban Terminator
- News Release; 26 July 2000; Snakes in the GM Grass
- News Release; July 28, 2000; USDA Refuses To Abandon Terminator Technology

## ETC – Technology

RAFI continued to monitor trends in biotechnology, and began work in two new areas that will extend the focus of our research in the years to come. In one new initiative, we began to explore the implications of biotechnology for biological warfare. In the other, we began to look at nanotechnology, a new technology that could fundamentally transform industrial production.

- In early 2001, as a special issue of its journal *Development Dialogue*, Sweden's Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation will publish a book-length journal, entitled The ETC Century, written by Pat Mooney. The paper provocatively explores current trends in technology, and introduces nanotechnology as a matter for urgent global attention. (Nanotechnology involves the construction of microscopic-level technologies from atoms.) Somewhat of a sequel to the 1987 "Bogève Conference," which put concerns about then-emerging biotechnologies on the agenda for development activists worldwide, and led to the "Bogève Declaration," RAFI and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation are now planning an international civil society conference on nanotechnology for 2001. It is ambitiously aimed at opening far-reaching international public debate about the potential impacts and dangers of nanotechnology. As noted previously, the "ETC Framework," with its focus on "Erosion, Technology and Concentration," has become the conceptual framework for RAFI's entire programme. Nanotechnology will be one of the technologies that RAFI monitors in coming years.

- After a one-year hiatus, caused largely by competing demands to oppose Terminator and Traitor technologies, RAFI returned this year to earlier research on human genomics and gene patenting. We updated our data on trends in the science of



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human genomics, and on related ethical matters – including the human tissue trade and the privatization of the human genome via intellectual property. With the Human Genome Project nearing completion, the race to patent and privatize the commercially important bits of variation found in individuals has accelerated. In January/February of 2000, we published a Communiqué entitled [Phase II for Human Genome Research](#) that summarized some of our research on this issue. An announcement by US President Clinton and UK Prime Minister Blair about the privatization of the human genome led to the publication of another Genotype, entitled [Decoding the Clinton/Blair Announcement](#). This analysis of the privatization of human genome led to significant media attention for RAFI's work in this area, and was widely quoted. Finally, we are continuing work on a much-delayed resource kit on human genomics research and patenting, now scheduled for publication in 2001.

- Despite our movement into new areas of research, monitoring trends in biotechnology remained a major focus for RAFI in 1999-2000. We tracked the emergence of a "third generation" of agricultural biotechnology, aimed at breaking down consumer resistance to the first two generations. Generation One refers to crops that have been engineered for "input traits." These crops were manipulated to tolerate chemical inputs such as weed killers, or to express insecticidal genes. Generation Two focuses on "output traits". This refers to crops engineered to reduce costs of food or feed processing, like the slow-rotting tomato with a longer shelf life. These products offered no obvious benefits to consumers, and were met with widespread scepticism. Generation Three products, however – from edible vaccines, to anti-cancer vegetables, from cholesterol-reducing grains, to nutrient-fortified crops, and blue carnations – will offer perceived

benefits to consumers. We anticipate that they will represent the next wave of biotechnology, aimed at distracting critics and dissolving societal concerns about biotechnology. RAFI will be monitoring their evolution in the year ahead.

- For several years, RAFI has been part of an informal, US-based grouping of researchers, activists, and academics concerned about trends in biotechnology, which has met twice in recent years at Blue Mountain, New York. In an effort to internationalize the group's composition and focus, RAFI was instrumental in getting colleagues from Africa, South East Asia, and Latin America to the three-day Blue Mountain meeting that took place in October of 1999. The gathering established a common international research and action agenda on biotechnology and the environment, bio-safety, human rights, and trade. Participants subsequently approached a sympathetic funding consortium, and secured funding for several joint initiatives (see [RAFI Outreach](#), page 16).

- In early 2000, two publicly funded agricultural researchers from Switzerland and Germany announced the successful development of their high-tech "Golden Rice" – genetically engineered for high Vitamin A content. In May 2000, they turned all of their research over to the Gene Giant Astra Zeneca (now Syngenta), in a move that troubled many. In June 2000, RAFI issued a Genotype entitled [On Golden Pawns](#), which not only questioned the fundamental assumptions behind this ultra high-tech approach to basic nutritional deficiencies, but also raised concerns about the science and the intellectual property implications of Vitamin A-enriched rice itself. RAFI's critique was subsequently cited widely in North American publications, including [Time Magazine](#), [The New York Times](#), and [The Washington Post](#).

- RAFI followed-up the Golden Rice story with a detailed analysis of the intellectual property “jungle” that could have been negotiated to keep this new technology in the public domain. This detailed patent analysis was published as a Communiqué, entitled Golden Rice & Trojan Trade Repts. It concluded that the abandonment of Golden Rice to the private sector was a “case study in the failure of public science to understand and address patent issues,” and challenged the relevant inter-governmental institutions to find ways to protect public science from privatization.
- Related Publications: RAFI published the material listed below in relation to its “Technology” programme.

#### **RAFI PUBLICATIONS, 1999-2000**

- The ETC Century, by Pat Mooney; to be published by the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation as a special issue of Development Dialogue; 2001
- RAFI Communiqué Vol. 63; January/February 2000; Phase II for Human Genome Research – Human Genetic Diversity Enters the Commercial Mainstream
- Genotype; June 20, 2000; On Golden Pawns



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# ETC – Concentration

(of Industry, Power, and Control)

As in past years, RAFI worked steadily to keep abreast of the mega-mergers and buy-outs that have become such a feature of the life industries in the last few years. We also continued to monitor the multilateral institutions that have increasing power over government decision-making and national legislation.

- In the wake of unprecedented corporate mergers taking place these past two years, RAFI began a new and comprehensive study to document corporate concentration over the last quarter century. We hired a US-based research consultant to compare the top 200 companies in the global food and beverage industry of 1976 with the current industry leaders. Though not yet complete, preliminary analysis indicates that 54% of the 1976 companies had disappeared to mergers, acquisitions, or diversification away from the food sector. In early 2000 alone, the world witnessed food industry mergers and buyouts valued at US\$150 billion. The study will be incorporated into RAFI's research and analysis on biotech's Generation Three.

- RAFI also published timely analyses of corporate mergers in the life industries, as they occurred. Pharma-gedon (with thanks to Brewster Kneen for the title!) was published as a Genotype in December 1999, analysing the merger between corporate giants Monsanto and Pharmacia-Upjohn, and events that preceded it.

- In September of 1999, Pat Mooney was invited to be one of the four keynote speakers at the World Seed Conference in Cambridge, England. As the annual meeting of the world seed trade, this was the perfect place to publish new research on corporate concentration in the seed industry. RAFI issued a

news release, entitled World Seed Conference – Shrinking Club of Industry Giants Gather for Wake or Pep Rally? This was followed in January 2000 by a Genotype called AgBiotech's Five Jumbo Gene Giants – An Analysis of Corporate Concentration. These papers concluded that if recently announced mergers were completed, 68% of the world's agro-chemical market, and 20% of the world's seed trade, would be controlled by just five mega-companies.

- RAFI continued to monitor the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and to express concerns about its governance structure. Decision making there is concentrated in the hands of financial donors from the North, rather than in the hands of the seed donors of the South, for whom CGIAR's research is destined. In May 2000, Pat Mooney attended the CGIAR's Global Forum on Agriculture Research (GFAR) in Dresden, Germany, where he provided his analysis to other CSOs on the context and issues surrounding the GFAR Conference, and offered alternative visions for future agricultural research objectives. RAFI secured foundation funding to allow partners from South East Asia to attend the Dresden meeting.

- During the well-publicized "Battle of Seattle," RAFI's Pat Mooney attended parallel activities at the WTO meeting in Seattle. He spoke to a civil society gathering of 7000 people about biopiracy and the WTO requirements regarding intellectual property. In particular, Pat raised concerns about the potential misuse of Terminator as a "political weapon" to enforce unilateral trade rules.

- In 1999-2000, Canada's Federal Court of of

Appeal considered an appeal by Harvard College of the USA, on the patentability in Canada of its now-famous “oncomouse,” engineered to be susceptible to cancer. Two earlier decisions had ruled that the mouse was not patentable in Canada, but in August 2000, the higher Court ruled that the mouse itself was an invention, and thus patentable. RAFI co-authored a feature article with the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) on this case, and released a Genotype, entitled The Mouse That Roared on Animal Pharm, analysing the Court decision. The case, which RAFI followed closely and worked on with CELA, is now slated to go to Canada’s Supreme Court for a final ruling on the patentability of mammals.

- Related Publications: RAFI published the following material as part of its “Concentration” programme.

#### **RAFI PUBLICATIONS, 1999-2000**

- News Release; September 3, 1999; World Seed Conference – Shrinking Club of Industry Giants Gather for Wake or Pep Rally?
- Genotype; November 11, 1999; GMO (God May Object) – Unholy Alliance
- Genotype; December 21, 1999; Pharma-gedon
- Genotype; January 7, 2000; AgBiotech’s Five Jumbo Gene Giants
- Genotype; March 26, 2000; Decoding the Clinton/Blair Announcement
- Genotype; August 10, 2000; The Mouse That Roared on Animal Pharm
- Genotype; November 25, 2000; Give Us This Day Our Bio-Bread



ETC – Technology

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## RAFI Outreach

For five years, RAFI's much-used Web site has been the unchallenged mainstay of our information dissemination and outreach, and 1999-2000 brought substantial changes to its management and design. A Winnipeg company was hired to manage and successfully revamp the site, making it more accessible. Approximately 1,758,000 publications, graphics, and other RAFI documents were opened from our Web site during the year, by an average of almost 25,000 distinct users each month.

Increasing use was also made of RAFI's email "listserver," our principal mechanism to disseminate RAFI news, analysis, and research updates to civil society organizations, policy-makers, and media outlets worldwide. During 1999-2000, listserver members grew by 33%, from 2400 to 3200, with subscribers at the end of the year from 113 known countries.

Thanks to efforts at the Blue Mountain meeting, and in cooperation with Brazilian and Argentinean colleagues, RAFI and Barcelona-based GRAIN (Genetic Resources Action International) received support from three foundations for the translation of RAFI and GRAIN documents into Spanish and Portuguese, and for the creation of a Spanish language Web site ([www.biodiversidadla.org](http://www.biodiversidadla.org)). Both initiatives are well underway. The Web site is managed by Argentinean staff, in close cooperation with NGO networks in Latin America. The result is that material of particular relevance to Latin Americans, on issues of the type that RAFI covers, is now much more readily available in Latin America than it was a year ago. All new RAFI Communiqués, most News Releases, and most Genotypes have been translated into Spanish and disseminated via this new mechanism, which at fiscal year-end was used

by approximately 500 people monthly, and attracting new users daily.

In addition to electronic outreach, RAFI continued to disseminate print copies of the Communiqué, though for reasons of cost and efficiency we worked to increase the number of electronic subscribers, and reduce the number of print recipients. Paper subscriptions dropped from 800 to 465 during the year, of whom over two-thirds are now from the South, compared with 41% a year earlier. RAFI also continued to meet people face to face, responding as often as possible to invitations to contribute to strategically important educational events around the world. By year's end, five RAFI staff contributed substantively to 57 workshops, seminars, conferences and briefings, in nine countries in the South, and seven in the North. This compares with 36 such events in the previous year.

During the year, RAFI also worked extensively with media outlets from around the world. We recorded 147 media contacts (or known coverage) in 27 countries. Nonetheless, we realize that these figures do not accurately reflect the actual use and publication of RAFI materials, since media people increasingly use RAFI's News Releases and Web site, without directly contacting RAFI staff. RAFI material is now regularly cited in major print and electronic media on all continents. See the accompanying document, **RAFI's Impact**, for greater detail.

## Thanks

RAFI's work would not be possible without the generous support of both old and new friends, whose financial contributions have made possible the work described herein. We sincerely thank all of the organizations mentioned on the following page – for staying the course in the case of long-standing supporters, and for their vote of confidence in the case of new donors. Together, you are our lifeline!

Thanks also go out to the organizations whose contributions to RAFI's travel have made it possible to reach out more broadly than would have been possible otherwise.



Thanks

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## **RAFI SUPPORTERS, 1999-2000**

- Anonymous Foundation (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- Anonymous Foundation (Canada)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) – International NGO Division (Canada)
- Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme – CBDC (Chile)
- C.S. Fund (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- Netherlands Ministry for International Cooperation – DGIS (Netherlands)<sup>2</sup>
- Foundation for Deep Ecology (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- Educational Foundation of America (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- Sol Goldman Charitable Trust (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- Greenville Foundation (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- GTZ (Germany)<sup>2</sup>
- HIVOS (Netherlands)<sup>2</sup>
- HKH Foundation (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC) (Canada)
- Albert A. List Foundation (For Biopiracy and Biotechnology Research) (USA)<sup>1</sup>
- NORAGRIC (Norway)
- The Philanthropic Collaborative (USA)
- Rockefeller Foundation (USA)
- SEARICE (Philippines)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sweden)
- Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature (Sweden)<sup>2</sup>
- The Lawson Valentine Foundation (USA)<sup>1</sup>

1: via RAFI-USA prior to fiscal sponsorship

2: via SEARICE

## **RAFI CONTRIBUTORS, 1999-2000**

- Action Aid (UK)
- The Conservation Fund, West Virginia (USA)
- Evangelisches Bauernwerk in Wurttemberg
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- International Seed Trade Organization
- Keystone Foundation
- Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture
- Pesticides Action Network
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Seed Savers Exchange
- Swedish Development Forum
- United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report (International)

## **RAFI BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1999-2000**

- Sven Hamrell, Uppsala, Sweden: RAFI President; Senior Advisor to Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
- Tim Brodhead, Montreal, Canada: RAFI Treasurer; President and CEO, J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
- Alejandro Argumedo, Cusco, Peru: Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network<sup>1</sup>
- Elizabeth Bravo, Quito, Ecuador: lecturer in biology; environmental activist
- Ann Danaiya Usher, Heggedal, Norway: journalist
- Rene Salazar, Manila, Philippines: community organizer/researcher; International Coordinator, CBDC
- Sarojeni Rengam, Penang, Malaysia: Asian Coordinator, Pesticides Action Network
- Helen Vinton, New Iberia, USA: President, Southern Mutual Help Assoc.
- Kathryn Waller, Savannah, USA: Past Executive Director of The Rural Advancement Fund and National Sharecroppers Fund; Founding President of RAFI-USA
- Nettie Wiebe, Delisle, Canada: farmer; Past President, National Farmers' Union; Professor of Ethics, St. Andrew's College, University of Saskatchewan<sup>2</sup>
- Melaku Worede, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Scientific Advisor to USC Canada

1: resigned in 1999-2000

2: joined in 1999-2000

## **RAFI STAFF, 1999-2000**

- Pat Mooney, Executive Director
- Jean Christie, Director of International Liaison (part-time)
- Beverly Cross, Office Manager
- Julie Delahanty, Researcher/Programme Manager
- Yutta Fricke, Programme Coordinator (part-time)
- Silvia Ribeiro, Researcher/Programme Manager
- Hope Shand, Director of Research (RAFI-USA)
- Maurice St. Pierre, Accountant (part-time)

# **RAFI**

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# RAFI

THE RURAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

RAFI is an international civil society organization headquartered in Winnipeg, Canada, and governed by a Board of Trustees with members from five continents. RAFI is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and to the socially responsible development of technologies useful to rural societies. RAFI is concerned about the loss of agricultural biodiversity, the impact of intellectual property on biotechnology and food security, and the governance of international institutions that affect rural communities.

RAFI has roster status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and consulting status with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). RAFI is a member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, in compliance with its Code of Ethics for members.