

# A Conservative Measure of RAFI's Impact: 1996

## RAFI Publications, Media Coverage, and Outreach

It is impossible to calculate the qualitative impact of RAFI publications and outreach. Quantitative measures are grossly inadequate, and can be deceptive. However they do provide an insight into the effect of RAFI's written materials and staff contacts. Below are several summaries which together give an indication of RAFI's reach. They begin with lists of *RAFI Communiqués*, *Occasional Papers*, *RAFI Translators*, Press Releases, and other publications issued in 1996. These are followed by summaries of media coverage in the North and South. Next is a calendar of speaking engagements and other activities with a multiplier effect, where RAFI's message was disseminated. Finally, there is an analysis of RAFI's electronic information service, which is now an integral part of RAFI's information dissemination. Because an electronic periodical search was done for media references in North American publications, the tables are skewed in favour of North American coverage. Media impact in the South is almost certainly under-represented, and citations of RAFI material in academic journals have not been included.

### **RAFI Communiqués 1996:**

- **January/February 1996:** Sixty-Five Years of the US Plant Patent Act (PPA)
- **March/April 1996:** New Questions About Management and Exchange of Human Tissues at NIH
- **July /August 1996:** Pharmaceutical Companies Bid for Northern Botanical Garden Collections in Attempt to Avoid Biodiversity Convention
- **September 1996:** The Life Industry
- **December 1996:** 1996 Biopiracy Update - US Patents Claim Exclusive Monopoly Control of Food Crop, Medicinal Plants, Soil Microbes and Traditional Knowledge from the South

### **RAFI Occasional Papers 1996:**

- vol. 3, no. 1: The Leipzig Process: Food Security and Diversity in the Context of Trade (June 1996)
- vol. 3, no. 2: Stakeholders and Steakeaters (Nov. 1996)

### **RAFI Translators 1996:**

In 1996, RAFI launched a new series of occasional publications, called *RAFI Translators*. These provide a clause-by- clause analysis of formal texts, for use by NGOs worldwide. The first two issues were:

- *RAFI Translator: MUSE or Mis-USE?* - a clause-by-clause analysis of IPGRI paper “MUSE - Multilateral System of Exchange” on policy options for access to *ex situ* agricultural germplasm; Feb. 1996
- *RAFI Translator - Security or Dependency? Draft World Food Summit Declaration and Plan of Action Entrenches Food Insecurity - but the Debate is Far from Over*, a clause-by-clause analysis of FAO’s draft Plan of Action for the World Food Summit; Sept. 1996

### **RAFI News Releases 1996:**

- **March 15:** New Study Discounts Claimed Benefits of Patenting Plants
- **May 20:** Human Tissue Trade Has Ethical, Commercial... and Military Implications
- **June 20 (Leipzig Germany):** Biopiracy of European Collections  
(released with Third World Network and Ecoropa)
- **September 11 (Washington DC, USA)** Diverse Group Joins in Washington to Oppose US Government Funding for the HGDP
- **December 3:** US. Government Dumps the Hagahai Patent - Official Notice to Coincide with Human Rights Day

### **Other RAFI Publications 1996:**

- Cary Fowler and Pat Mooney; *Shattering: Food, Politics and the Loss of Genetic Diversity*, third reprint by University of Arizona Press
- *Enclosures of the Mind: Intellectual Monopolies - A Resource Kit on Community Knowledge, Biodiversity and Intellectual Property*, 80 pages; produced for the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Program; Oct. 1996. (Spanish translation in progress.)

### **Other RAFI Publications 1996 (Continued):**

- *Human Nature: Agricultural Biodiversity and Farm-Based Food Security*, a 100 page book, published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (in production, for publication in 1997)
- *Agrigenda 21*; revision of RAFI's 1993 study on multilateral agricultural institutions, presented to North American NGO conference in Minneapolis; March 28-30
- Ron Benner; *All That Has Value*; McIntosh Gallery of Western Ontario; essay by Pat Mooney introduces the art exhibition's catalogue for use at McIntosh Gallery, University of Western Ontario; Edmonton Art Gallery; Presentation House Gallery, Vancouver; Dunlop Gallery, Regina; 1995 -'96
- Baumann, Bell, Koechlin and Pimbert (editors); *The Life Industry - Biodiversity, people and profits* Intermediate Technology Publications; 1993; essay by Pat Mooney entitled *The Butterfly Rises*
- *Agrobiodiversity and Farmers' Rights* (Proceedings of a Technical Consultation on an Implementation Framework for Farmers' Rights; Madras, India; Feb. 1995): *Viewpoint of Non-Governmental Organizations*, by Pat Mooney
- *Preparedness of Developing Countries to Cope with a Protected Trade System in Agriculture* presented to the Second International Crop Science Conference, New Delhi, India; Nov. 1996; by Pat Mooney
- UNESCO People and Plants Handbook, issue 2; *Protecting Rights: Legal and Ethical Implications of Ethnobiology* - RAFI profiled as a resource group
- National Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK; *British Overseas Aid and the Seed Sector*; RAFI profiled as a resource group
- World Sustainable Agriculture Association; *For All Generations – Making World Sustainable Agriculture More Sustainable*; includes a 5 page profile of RAFI's history and current program (in progress)

### **NGO Publications at International Events in 1996 (published with RAFI editorial support)**

- April 22; **Biotalk vol. 2, no. 1 (Rome, Italy)**; NGO newsletter at meeting of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources
- April 25; **Biotalk vol. 2, no. 2 (Rome)**
- Sept. 3; **Biotalk vol. 3, no. 1 (Montreal, Canada)**; NGO newsletter at meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

## NGO Publications (Continued)

- Sept. 6; **Biotalk vol. 3, no. 2 (Montreal)**
- Sept. 24; **The [Bread] Bracket vol. 1, no. 1 (Rome)** NGO newsletter at FAO Committee on Food Security, in preparation for the World Food Summit.
- Sept. 27; **The [Bread] Bracket vol. 1, no. 2 (Rome)**
- Oct. 28; **The [Bread] Bracket vol. 1, no. 3 (Rome)**
- Nov. 4; **Biotalk vol. 4, no. 1 (Buenos Aires, Argentina)**; NGO newsletter at the Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention.
- Nov. 6; **Biotalk vol. 4, no. 2 (Buenos Aires)**
- Nov. 8; **Biotalk vol. 4, no. 3 (Buenos Aires)**
- Nov. 11; **Biotalk vol. 4, no. 4 (Buenos Aires)**
- Nov. 14; **The [Bread] Bracket vol. 1, no. 4 (Rome)**

## RAFI Media Coverage in the North - 1996:

Note: *items in italics* are known to have been aired or to have been used in print on the dates indicated.

Those in normal type are interviews that were conducted, the results of which we do not know.

- Jan.; **No Patents on Life! (Switzerland)**; Plant Patents: Biopirates increase their booty
- Jan. 3; **Utne Reader (USA)**; provided information on corporate microbial patents
- Jan. 4; Journal of the Swedish Co-operative Movement; *Potatiskris i repris*
- Jan. 5; O Publico (Portugal); provided information on human patenting
- Jan. 10; Harpers (USA); provided information on human patenting
- Jan. 16; New York Times Syndicate/Chattanooga Times (USA); *Are we needling the tribes in the jungle?*
- Jan. 16; British documentary film-maker; provided information on bioprospecting
- Jan. 20; Ottawa Citizen (Canada); *Patent Pending: Who Owns life?*

## RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)

- Jan. 23; US documentary film-maker; provided information on bioprospecting and indigenous peoples' knowledge
- Jan. 23; British documentary film-maker; provided leads on marine bioprospecting
- Jan. 25; L'Hebdo (Switzerland); *Les pharmaciens courent apres l'or vert* and *Vampires en blouse blanche*
- Jan. 25; Black River Productions (Canadian documentary film-maker); provided information on potato blight, for one hour documentary proposal
- Jan. 25; Die Zeit (Germany); provided information and sources for data on crop diseases
- Jan. 29; BBC "Everyman" (UK); provided background information and international contacts on human patenting
- Jan. 31; Canadian Press Wire Service; provided information for a feature on human patenting
- Jan./Feb.; **Australian Broadcasting Commission, TV**; provided information on several occasions for a documentary on bioprospecting and human patenting
- Feb.; **21.C (Australia)**; *Gene Piracy*
- Feb. 5; **Canadian Educational film-maker**; provided information and contacts on human patenting
- Feb. 5; **Global TV News (Canada)**; *excerpts from Pat Mooney's acceptance speech for UN Association medal*
- Feb. 11; **Winnipeg Sun (Canada)**; *Payback time - congrats to Pat Mooney of the Rural Advancement Foundation International*
- Feb. 12; **Radio New Zealand**; *interview with Jean Christie on human patenting*
- Feb. 15; **The Toronto Star**; provided information on World Food Summit, and related multilateral meetings dealing with agriculture and food security
- March; **Scientific American**; *Vital Data*
- March; **German film-maker**; provided information and interviews for a documentary film on potato blight
- March; **Seedling vol. . 13, no. 1**; summary of *RAFI Communiqué* on Plant Patent Act

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- March; **World Federalists (Canada) Briefing Paper no. 31**; *People, Plants and Patents: Balancing intellectual property rights and global protection of biodiversity*
- March 10; **WBAI radio, New York**; *two hour live panel interview on Ciba Geigy-Sandoz merger, Pat Mooney*
- March 11; **The Nation (USA)**; *Down on the Animal Pharm: Splicing Away at Regulations*
- March 26; **The Daily Reporter (Sacramento, California, USA)**; *'White Shoes' Outnumber 'White Knights' in Big Bucks Business of Patenting Life*
- March 27; **The San Diego Union-Tribune (California, USA)**; *The microbe hunt - Costa Rica stakes future on rich value of nature and Gene prospectors search out valuable codes of life*
- March 29; **Athens Daily Newspaper (Greece)**; *provided information on human patenting*
- March 30; **Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)**; *Cure is all they want*
- March/April; **Au Courant - Canadian Council for International Co-operation**; *RAFI and the Patenting of Life Forms / brevetage des formes de vie*
- April; **The Law Works (USA)**; *New Study Discounts 'Benefits' of Patenting Plants*
- April; **BioScience (American Institute of Biological Sciences)**; *Ground rules emerge for marine bioprospectors*
- April; **SEEDlinks Quebec** (publication of ASEED); *Multilateral Agricultural Institutions - At a Glance*
- April; **Global biodiversity vol. 5, no. 4 (Canadian Museum of Nature)**; *Indigenous person from Papua New Guinea claimed in US Government patent*
- April 4; **Nature vol. 380**; *Anthropologist cleared in patent dispute*
- April 15; **CBC Radio Gabereau" (Canada)**; *feature interview with Pat Mooney on life patenting and biopiracy*
- April 15; **Vancouver Co-op Radio (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on life patenting and bioprospecting*
- April 15; **Simon Fraser University Radio, Vancouver (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on life patenting and bioprospecting*

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- April 21; **AP (USA)**; *Genetic colonialism*
- April 21; **The Los Angeles Times/AP (USA)**; *A case of good research or “genetic colonialism”?*
- April 21; **Rocky Mountain News, Denver/AP (USA)**; *Patent on tribesman’s blood called “genetic colonialism”*
- April 21; **AP (USA)**; *Blood of a Tribesman*
- April 21; **Seattle Times/AP (USA)**; *Out of the forest and into the bio-engineered 90s*
- April 21; **San Francisco Examiner/AP (USA)**; *Blood of a Tribesman*
- April 21; **Detroit News/AP (USA)**; *Blood of a Tribesman*
- April 21; **The Commercial Appeal, Memphis Tennessee/AP (USA)**; *Are patents business as usual even in biology?*
- April 24; **Desert News, Salt Lake City Utah (USA)**; provided information on human patenting
- April 28; **Telegraph Herald, Dubuque Iowa (USA)**; *Bloody test for ethics*
- April 28; **Sacramento Bee, California/AP**; *Genetic colonialism in a prehistoric world*
- April 29; **Inter Press Service (Rome, Italy)**; *From Rome to Leipzig, Hard Bargaining Over Global Plan*
- May; **Hortideas (USA)**; *A Critique of the US. Plant Patent Act*
- May; **Seeds of Diversity vol. 9, no. 2 (Canada)**; *GATT, Intellectual Property and Biological Diversity*
- May 2; **Nature vol. 38**; *Whose genes are they anyway?*
- May 8; **Bioworld Today (USA)**; *Prospecting or Modern Day Colonialism? Ethicists examine who profits from genetic research*
- May 5; **La Presse/AP (Montreal Canada)**; *Les Etats-Unis accuses de “colonialisme genetique”*
- May 11; **Toronto Globe and Mail /AP**; *Taking a Patent on Life*
- May 28; **CNN News (USA)**; provided information on human cell line trade

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- May 30; **BBC (London, UK)**; provided information on agricultural genetic resources
- May 30; **BBC (Manchester, UK)**; provided information on human genetic research
- May 31; **German documentary film makers**; provided information and contacts for a documentary on human patenting and related issues
- May/June; **International Agricultural Development (UK)**; The corporate connection - Biodiversity is big business. We look at how the....corporations are moving in on the world of the small farmer
- June; **Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter, no. 106 (IPGRI/FAO, Rome Italy)**; letter to the editor Farmers' Rights in India
- June; **Global Pesticide Campaigner, vol. 6. no. 2**; NGO says patent laws for Plants hurt biodiversity
- June; **Pesticide Action Network North America Updates Service, no. 26 (USA)**; NGO says patent laws for Plants hurt biodiversity
- June 6 - 10; **CNN News (USA)**; provided background information and data on human patenting and research links between NIH facilities and US military
- June 7; **Hispanic Radio (USA)**; provided information and interviews with Edward Hammond for a 5 or 6 part series on agricultural biodiversity and biotechnology
- June 7; **Cultural Survival Canada press conference on human patenting(Ottawa, Canada)**; participation by Pat Mooney
- June 13; **Die Woche (Hamburg, Germany)**; provided information on human patenting
- June 15; **CBC Radio (Winnipeg, Canada)**; interview with Pat Mooney on his work with RAFI
- June 19; **Insight (USA)**; interview with Jean Christie
- June 17-21; **Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources (Leipzig, Germany)**; Pat Mooney and/or Edward Hammond participated in **five NGO news conferences**, and were interviewed by: the **BBC, Financial Times, Inter Press Service, New Scientist, German and Italian television and other media**
- June 20; **News Conference (Leipzig Germany)**; RAFI with Ecoropa of Germany and Third World Network; on biopiracy from botanic gardens in Europe



## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- June 26; **Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)**; provided information on human patenting
- June 29; **New Scientist (UK)**; Biotech firm 'embarrassed' by leaked plant patent deal
- summer; **Cognition (Canadian Organic Growers)**; book review of *Shattering*
- summer; **Native Americas**; *Coalition Targets Potential "Geneticide"*
- July; **LifeStrains (Vancouver, Canada)**; *And the Trees Grew Inward* (tape of public talk given by Pat Mooney in April 1996, disseminated for educational use)
- July; **Cultural Survival Quarterly (USA) - summer issue** (special issue on human genetic research) *Whose Property, Whose Rights?* by Jean Christie; several other references
- July 5; **New Scientist (UK)**; provided information on bioprospecting
- July 5; **Stern magazine (Germany)**; provided information on use by corporations of plants in botanic gardens to side-step Biodiversity Convention
- July 5; **Gemini News Service (UK)**; provided information on biopiracy from botanic gardens in Europe
- July 6; **Toronto Globe and Mail (Canada)**; *Manitoban leads strong drive on ethics of gene ownership*
- July 6; **Calgary film-maker**; provided information for a film on gene patenting
- July 15; **Toronto Globe and Mail**; *Letters to the Editor: RAFI's enviable reputation* (two letters supporting RAFI)
- July 15; **The Georgia Strait (Canada)**; provided information on human patenting
- July 17; **Toronto Globe and Mail**; *Letters to the Editor: Biological Resources* (letter supporting RAFI)
- July 19; **L'Actualite (Montreal)**; provided information on biotechnology and life patenting
- July 22; **NBC Dateline (USA)**; provided information on human patenting
- July 22; **News World Communications Inc./Washington Times (USA)**; *'Vampire Project' Raises Issue of Patents for Human Genes*
- July 22; **Insight (USA)**; *'Vampire Project' Raises Issue of Patents for Human Genes*

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- July 23; **CBC Television Fifth Estate (Canada)**; provided information human patenting
- July 25; **Fuji National Television Network (Japan)**; provided information on human patenting
- July 26; **Business Week (USA)**; provided information on neem and other plant patents
- July 29; **Panorama (Italy)**; provided information on agricultural and human patenting
- July 30; **NRC Handelsblad (Netherlands)**; *Bedrijven nemen patent op genetisch materiaal van mensen*
- July/Aug.; **International Agricultural Development (UK)**; *Plant genetic resources plan agreed*
- Aug. 2; **Geo Magazine (Germany)**; provided information and contacts on African Seeds of Survival
- Aug.; **Diversity (USA)**; *Leipzig: the Zen Version*, by Pat Mooney
- Aug. 17; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Tomorrow's Bitter Harvest*
- Aug. 26; **Canadian University Press**; provided information and contacts on human DNA sampling and human patenting
- Sept.; **Survival Update (Cultural Survival Canada)**; *Is There a Gene for the Wetiko Disease?*
- Sept. 3; **Canadian film makers**; provided information on bioprospecting and human patenting
- Sept. 6; **Canadian University Press**; *Indigenous activists protest DNA conference*
- Sept. 6; **CBC Radio News (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on human patenting*
- Sept. 6; **CBC Radio Quirks and Quarks (Canada)**; interview with Pat Mooney on human patenting
- Sept. 9; **Inter Press Service (Toronto, Canada)**; *Indigenous Groups Target 'Vampire Project'*
- Sept. 9; **The Observer (UK)**; provided information on bioprospecting
- Sept. 10; **The Link (Concordia University, Montreal Canada)**; *Protesters denied entry*
- Sept. 11; **Washington DC: RAFI press release**: *Diverse Group Joins in Washington to Oppose US. Government Funding for the HGDP*

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- Sept. 16, 1996; **RAFI Press Conference, National Press Club, Washington, DC (USA)**; on RAFI and indigenous peoples' testimony to US National Academy of Science on the Human Genome Diversity Project; *sent on video feed to Reuters television*
- Sept. 17; **MS-NBS TV (USA)**; *interview with Edward Hammond on gene patenting and human genetic diversity research*
- Sept. 17; **Inter Press Service (Washington DC, USA)**; *Indigenous Groups Warn Against Human Genome Project*
- Sept. 22; **AP (USA)**; *US. Retreats on Disputed Patent for Tribesman's Blood*
- Sept. 22; **Austin American-Statesman/AP (Texas, USA)**; *US. offers to drop rights on tribe's blood cells*
- Sept. 22; **Seattle Times/AP (Washington, USA)**; *US. retreats from patent for tribesman's rare blood*
- Sept. 23; **Corporate Crime Reporter (USA)**; *Interview with Edward Hammond, RAFI, Pittsboro, NC*
- Sept. 23; **Telegraph Herald/AP (Dubuque Iowa, USA)**; *Blood Patent Dropped*
- Sept. 23-27; **Rome**; numerous interviews with Pat Mooney by European media, on preparations for the World Food Summit
- Oct.; **Environment vol. 38, no. 8 (USA)**; Protecting indigenous peoples' rights to biodiversity
- Oct.; **GeneWatch vol. 10, no. 2-3 (USA)**; New Questions About Management and Exchange of Human Tissues at NIH and A Life Patenting Timeline and Who Owns Life?
- Oct.; **Geneflow (IPGRI, Italy)**; Leipzig Roundup (reaction from Pat Mooney)
- Oct. 1; **Canberra Times/AP (Australia)**; No Buyers for PNG Genetic Patent
- Oct. 1; **Impact Medecin (France)**; provided information on human patenting
- Oct. 1-4; **Stockholm, Sweden**; interviews with Pat Mooney by several media, on preparation for the World Food Summit
- Oct. 13; **Inter Press Service (London)**; Biodiversity: Pharmaceutical Companies Target Northern Seeds

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- Oct. 14; **The Scientist vol. 10, no. 20 (USA)**; Proposed Human Genome Diversity Project Still Plagued by Controversy and Questions
- Oct. 16; **Public Affairs TV Channel (Canada)**; broadcast of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee testimony on the World Food Summit, and subsequent panel discussion; Jean Christie
- Oct. 22; **The Lobby Monitor/Environmental Dimensions (Canada)**; provided information on life patenting, Biodiversity Convention, WTO and strategy to bring life patenting to World Court
- Oct. 25; **Der Spiegel (Germany)**; provided information on human patenting and World Court strategy
- Oct. 29; **Nature Biotechnologies (UK)**; provided information on the Biodiversity Convention, in situ collections, and implications for botanic gardens
- Oct. 30; **Development Today (Norway)**; provided information on World Food Summit negotiations
- Nov.; **Vegetarian Times (USA)**; Waiter, there's a flounder in my fruit; bioengineered fruits and vegetable with animal genetic materials are not so labeled
- Nov.; **Diversity vol. 12, no. 3 (USA)**; Leipzig is What Happens When You're Making Other Plans, by Pat Mooney, and NAS Panel Hears Charges of "Biocolonialism" Over Human Genome Diversity Project
- Nov. 4; **CBS News (USA)**; provided information on human patenting
- Nov. 4; **Discover Channel (Canada)**; research interview with a documentary film-maker for feature documentary on gene patenting and related issues
- Nov. 4-15; **Third Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (Buenos Aires, Argentina)**; several interviews with Edward Hammond and Pat Mooney by Latin American and international media
- Nov. 11-17; **World Food Summit/NGO Forum (Rome, Italy)**; Pat Mooney was interviewed by: **radio outlets from Germany, Italy and Norway and Sweden (3 times); Italian television; German print media, The Manchester Guardian, The New York Times**
- Nov. 14; **IPS Terra Viva no. 2 (Rome)**; Pope: Over-population not the Problem

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the North (Continued)**

- Nov. 15; **IPS Terra Viva no. 3 (Rome)**; Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner! and NGOs Smell Double-Talk
- Nov. 16; **Inter Press Service (Rome)**; Food Globalization: It's Not Just About Trade
- Nov. 20; **Business Standard (USA)**; India: Focus on Bio-research advocated
- Nov. 27; **Global Television (Canada)**; research interview with producer on biotechnology industry and public concerns, for a new science series
- Nov./Dec.; **The Ecologist, vol. 26, no. 6**; *CGIAR - Agricultural Research for Whom?*
- Dec.; **GRAIN Seedling (Spain)**; book review of *Enclosures of the Mind*
- Dec.; **Nature Biotechnology vol. 14 (USA)**; *Biotechnology row reignited my money for Kew*
- Dec.; **Technology Access Report (USA)**; *News and Intelligence* column; article of RAFI's research on human patenting
- Dec.; **GATT Watchdog (Aotearoa/New Zealand)**; provided information on biopiracy and human patenting
- Dec. 5; **Western Producer (Regina, Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney*
- Dec. 5; **CBC Radio Noon (Regina, Canada)**; hour-long phone-in program with Pat Mooney
- Dec. 16; **Western Producer (Saskatoon, Canada)**; *Rome food summit discusses concerns regarding biotechnology*

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the South - 1996:**

- Jan.; **Third World Resurgence no. 65/66 (Malaysia)**; Patenting the 'primitive': Reflections on the Human Genome Project
- Jan.; **Terompel (PAN Indonesia)**; Potato Blight is Back! North Sumatera affected too
- Jan.; **Pacific News Bulletin (Pacific)**; Biopiracy update - patenting indigenous peoples
- Jan. 5; **South Magazine**; provided data on biopiracy
- Jan. 11; **Far Eastern Economic Review**; Forest Fire - The biodiversity debate heats up

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the South (Continued)**

- Jan./Feb.; **Third World Resurgence (Malaysia)**; Patenting the 'Primitive': Reflections on the Human Genome Project
- Feb.; **Bombay, India**; The Gene Revolution
- March; **Third World Network Features**; Can a man be patented?
- March 23; **Uni Tavur (Papua New Guinea)**; Maori Expert Slams Hagahai "Outrage"
- April; **Semillas en la economia campesina (Colombia)**; Patente de algodon de pigmentacion natural, Conservacion de conocimientos autoctonos; and Resenas Sobre Biopirateria - biopirateria de plantas medicinales
- April; **Terompet (Indonesia)**; NGO Statement - Intellectual Property Rights (Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)
- April 21; **The Asian Age, New Delhi/AP (India)**; Out of the forest and into the bio-age
- April 21; **The New Straits Times/AP (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)**; Out of the forest and into the bio-age
- April 26; **Uni Tavur (Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea)**; RAFI challenge over Hagahai consent and Indigenous "invention" patent fight
- May; **New Delhi, India**; RAFI press release circulated to 9 Indian newspapers
- June 25; **Hoy (Quito, Ecuador)**; Patentan a la ayahuasca and La planta sagrada tiene un nuevo dueno legal
- June 25; **Comercio (Quito, Ecuador)**; Ayahuasca: la COICA rechaza su patente
- June 30; **Comercio (Quito, Ecuador)**; Ayahuasca - ?y la soberania que?
- June 30; **Comercio**; Ayahuasca: otro robo patentado
- July; **Neustra Amazonia, no. 8 (Amazon Basin)**; Indigenous Peoples' knowledge - Pharmaceuticals and their business (excerpts from Conserving Indigenous Knowledge - Integrating two systems of innovation)
- July; **South Letter, vol. 1 and 2 1996 (South Centre)**; Biopiracy and the South

## **RAFI Media Coverage in the South (Continued)**

- Aug.; **Connections (Sri Lanka)**; Patent Laws for Plants Hurt Biodiversity (reprint of RAFI Communiqué)
- Aug. 2; **Sunday Economic Times (New Delhi, India)**; provided information on biopiracy in India
- [Aug. 15; **Jornal do Brazil (Sao Paolo, Brazil)**; get title from Edward]
- Sept. 25; **Post Courier/AP (Papua New Guinea)**; Hagahai Cell Retreat
- Oct.; **Pacific News Bulletin (Pacific)**; Hagahai cell line retreat
- Nov. 15; **Frontline (India)**; For a more sustainable society - interview with Pat Mooney

## **RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings - 1996:**

- Jan. 14-18 ; **Madras, India**; M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation; Seminar to Develop a Framework for Farmers' Rights ; participation by Pat Mooney
- Jan.; assistance to **Thai NGOs** prior to World Bank meeting in Thailand on intellectual property; provided information on material transfer agreements
- Feb. 13; **Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden**; press conference in Stockholm on potato blight; seminar at Swedish Agricultural University, Uppsala - as a result of *RAFI Occasional Paper "The Hidden Hot Zone"*
- Feb. 13-14; **London, UK**; European Union/Environmental Resources Management "Stakeholder Workshops on Articles 15 & 16 of the Biodiversity Convention"; Pat Mooney , resource and panelist
- Feb. 23-28; **Quito, Ecuador**; NGO conference on the oil industry; Edward Hammond, resource person on bioprospecting
- March 28-30; **Minneapolis, USA**; North American NGO Conference in preparation for World Food Summit; RAFI paper on multilateral reform; Michael Sligh (RAFI USA) resource person on institutional reform
- April 13-17; **Bogota, Colombia**; Meeting organized by Latin American Institute for Alternative Legal Services (ILSA) on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge; presentation by Edward Hammond

## **RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings (Continued):**

- April 15; **Vancouver, Canada**; Presentation House Arts Centre/Simon Fraser University; speech to accompany the opening of Ron Benner's art exhibit "All That Has Value"; Pat Mooney
- April 19-22; **Rome, Italy**; international NGO planning meeting for Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources; participation by Edward Hammond and Pat Mooney
- April 22-27; **Rome, Italy**; Extraordinary Session of FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources; publication of NGO newsletter
- May 2-3; **Montreal, Canada**; Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network seminar at the Secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention on Convention clauses relating to indigenous knowledge; briefing by Pat Mooney
- June 10; **Winnipeg, Canada**; Church-Church Agency Consultation on Food Security and the World Food Summit; *Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Southern Interests*- presentation by Pat Mooney
- June 14-16; **Leipzig, Germany**; NGO seminar to finalize NGO strategy for Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources; Pat Mooney and Edward Hammond presented strategy outlined in *RAFI Occasional Paper vol. 3, no 1 - The Leipzig Process*
- June 17; **Leipzig, Germany**; ASEED/Play Fair Europe seminar on Food and Agriculture; workshop by Pat Mooney and Edward Hammond
- June 17-21; **Leipzig, Germany**; Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources; participation by Pat Mooney in five seminars - on Botanic Gardens, Biopiracy, Intellectual Property Rights, sui generis legislation, and CGIAR-NGO relations
- July 7; **Canberra, Australia**; RAFI Submission to the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committee on International Environmental Issues, Biosafety subgroup (in co-operation with Richard Hindmarsh, Griffith University, Brisbane)
- Aug. 1; **Ottawa, Canada**; Oxfam Canada committee on food security; presentation on biodiversity, intellectual property and food security; Jean Christie
- Sept. 2-6; **Montreal, Canada**; Biodiversity Convention SBSTTA meeting; publication of NGO newsletter
- Sept. 7; **Montreal, Canada**; Crucible Symposium on Benefit-Sharing and Botanical Gardens (in the context of the Biodiversity Convention): organized by RAFI for Crucible Group; participation by Jean Christie, Beverly Cross, Pat Mooney



## **RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings (Continued):**

- Sept. 16; **Washington, USA**; National Academy of Sciences Review of the Human Genome Diversity Project; testimony by Edward Hammond and Hope Shand; RAFI support to participants from Colombia and the Solomon Islands
- Sept. 22; **Rome, Italy**; participation in NGO seminar and strategy meeting for FAO Committee on Food Security
- Sept. 23-27; **Rome, Italy**; co-ordination of NGO lobby exercise at FAO Committee of Food Security; Pat Mooney; publication of NGO newsletter
- Sept. 26; **Montreal, Canada**; American Community Gardening Association Annual Meeting; workshop on “The Politics of Agricultural Biodiversity”; by Jean Christie
- Oct. 1; **Stockholm, Sweden**; participation in Dag Hammarskjold Foundation seminar on Reform of the United Nations; Pat Mooney
- Oct. 4; **Stockholm, Sweden**; Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature; Seminar “Food Security and Consumption”; opening speech by Pat Mooney
- Oct. 10; **Ottawa, Canada**; Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs; presentation to Committee in preparation for the World Food Summit; Jean Christie
- Oct. 26; **Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA**; Council for Responsible Genetics; Conference and strategy session at Harvard University, entitled “Resisting the Commercialization of our Genes”; presentations by Hope Shand and Edward Hammond
- Oct. 28-29; **Washington, USA**; CGIAR International Centres Week; Hope Shand
- Nov. 2; **Toronto, Canada**; Law Union of Canada Annual meeting; participation in a panel discussion on intellectual property rights and globalization; Jean Christie
- Nov. 2-3; **Buenos Aires, Argentina**; International NGO meeting and strategy session prior to Third Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (COP III); participation by Edward Hammond and Pat Mooney
- Nov. 4-15; **Buenos Aires**; COP III; RAFI, GRAIN and Third World Network organized a series of four seminars for delegates and NGOs. Pat Mooney was a panelist in one on Botanical Gardens and the Convention, and one on Intellectual Property Rights; publication of NGO newsletter

## **RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings (Continued):**

- [Edward? **Buenos Aires, Argentina;** at panel on Access to Genetic Resources, organized for indigenous people by Amazonian indigenous coalition CIOCA; panelist Edward Hammond
- Nov. 10; **Rome, Italy;** Youth Hunger Gathering at World Food Summit; presentation to plenary on intellectual property rights; Pat Mooney
- Nov. 14; **Rome;** NGO Forum at World Food Summit - Plenary on Agricultural Biodiversity; presentation by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 14; **Rome;** NGO Forum - seminar organized by Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development, on Trade, Agriculture and Food Security; panel presentation by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 15; **Rome;** NGO Forum - workshop on Agrarian Issues; panel presentation by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 15; **Rome;** NGO Forum - plenary on globalization; presentation by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 15; **Rome;** NGO Forum - panel on Food For All Campaign; presentation by Pat Mooney
- Nov./Dec.; **The Ecologist (UK); CGIAR - Agricultural Research for Whom** (special ten-page feature written with RAFI and GRAIN)
- Dec. 5; **Regina, Canada;** seminar presentation at Dunlop Gallery, Regina Public Library, in conjunction with Ron Benner's exhibition "All That Has Value", by Pat Mooney
- Dec. 9; **Canberra, Australia;** third RAFI Submission to the Commonwealth Interdepartmental Committee on International Environmental Issues; Biosafety Group - on a Biosafety Protocol Under the Convention on Biological Diversity; in cooperation with Richard Hindmarsh and Biotechnology Assessment Team, Griffith University, Brisbane
- Dec. 9-13; **Rome, Italy;** FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; participation and publication of NGO newsletter by Edward Hammond

**On Feb. 5, 1996, RAFI Executive Director Pat Mooney was one of fifty people to receive an inaugural UNA/Canada Medal of Honour. The award was established in 1995 by the United Nations Association in Canada, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, by "recognizing and paying tribute to Canadians who have made a difference to the world we all share, through services to and through the United Nations". Pat was honoured for more than 25 years of work - bringing the voice of NGOs and civil society to many United Nations agencies and gatherings**

## **RAFI Materials on the Internet**

In 1995, RAFI publications were made available electronically on the World Wide Web, and are now being accessed electronically by nearly a thousand people every month. "Visitors" to RAFI's home page have come from six continents and dozens of countries, including: Australia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, UK, Uruguay, Venezuela, USA.

In August 1996, RAFI started making regular updates on RAFI activities and publications available by electronic mail. More than 300 users in 30 countries now subscribe to the new Internet e-mail (listserv).

Internet records identify many media houses, government departments, corporations, the World Bank, non-governmental organizations, international agricultural research centres, academics, and university students among the users of RAFI's Internet services. Increased citation of RAFI material in academic journals may be a measure of RAFI's web site use by academic researchers.

Electronic dissemination of RAFI material has greatly enhanced the efficiency of RAFI's information services. Journalists and researchers with inquiries are initially referred to materials on the web site, and are invited to follow up with specific questions - saving time and money for both the researchers and for RAFI, and freeing RAFI staff time to serve those who do not have Internet access.

RAFI's Internet address is: **<http://www.rafi.ca>**