



ETC GROUP (FORMERLY RAFI) IMPACT REPORT 2000/01

This year, RAFI changed its name to “ETC group” (pronounced “etcetera”). The full legal name is “Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration.” The combined themes of Erosion (cultural and environmental); Technology (as it transforms society); and Concentration (of corporate power) form the operating framework for ETC group’s programme of work. The new name reflects an expansion of our programme, and emphasizes the important work ETC group is doing in relation to human rights, democracy, and governance.

The ETC group is an international non-profit civil society organization headquartered in Winnipeg, Canada with small satellite offices in Mexico City, Quebec, and North Carolina, USA. For almost 25 years, we have been advocates on global issues such as the conservation of agricultural biodiversity and food security and on the impact of new technologies affecting the rural poor. Since the 1970’s, we have been active critics of intellectual

property (patents) especially with respect to living materials. In the 1990s, our work expanded to encompass concerns related to biotechnology, biopiracy, human genomics, and a set of new technologies known as nanotechnologies. We have conducted groundbreaking research, education, and successful social action on issues involving agricultural biodiversity, biotechnology, intellectual property, and community knowledge systems. By coining popular terms such as “Biopiracy,” “Terminator Technology”, “Bioserfdom”, “Farmers’ Rights, and “Gene Giants,” ETC group has shaped the language of the global debate on these issues.



GrassRoots by Erik Drooker, www.drooker.com

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, WORKSHOPS AND BRIEFINGS

LIST A: MEETINGS ATTENDED (Erosion stream)

Sept 14, 2000, México City, México; Pat Mooney gave an open conference in a panel entitled "Bioprospecting or Biopiracy?" at Centro Cultural San Angel, to aprox. 600 people.

Sept 14-15, 2000, México City, México; Pat Mooney and Silvia Ribeiro gave several presentations at a seminar on "Bioprospecting or Biopiracy? Biodiversity, Farmers' and Indigenous Rights" organized by CECCAM, CASIFOP, and RAFI.

Sept 19-20, 2000, Chiapas, México; Silvia Ribeiro gave a workshop at a seminar on bioprospecting at the National Indigenous Institute.

Oct 6, 2000, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro was an international observer in a meeting of CSOs with the Mexican Environmental Ombudsman about a legal challenge of a bioprospecting contract by UNAM (Mexico's National Autonomous University) and Diversa Corporation.

Oct 23-27, 2000, Washington DC, USA; 5 RAFI staff participated in the CGIAR International Centres' Week, where a CGIAR policy on patenting and CGIAR restructuring were debated.

Oct 24-27, 2000, Athens, Georgia, USA; Pat Mooney and Silvia Ribeiro gave lectures at the VII Congress of the International Society on Ethnobiology, specifically to raise concerns about bioprospecting. (RAFI sponsored the participation of one representative of the Council of Indigenous Healers of Chiapas.)

Nov 4-6, 2000, Temuco, Chile; Silvia Ribeiro participated at the Annual Meeting of the advisory council of the international magazine "Biodiversidad".

Nov 8, 2000, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro participated in a follow-up public debate to the Sept 14 -15 seminar "Bioprospecting or Biopiracy?" with Mexican officials and CSOs.

Nov 12-16, 2000, Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Silvia Ribeiro participated in an FAO Contact Group on the International Undertaking on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Nov 17-20, 2000, Stockholm, Sweden; Silvia Ribeiro gave a presentation on TRIPs and biopiracy at the Focus on World Trade seminar organized by the Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature (in coalition with 9 other Swedish organizations).

Feb 3-11, 2001, Rome, Italy; Pat Mooney attended the FAO Contact Group Meeting on the International Undertaking.

Feb 20-25, 2001, Sarawak, Malaysia; Julie Delahanty participated in the South-South Biopiracy Summit, and also attended the Programme Management Committee Meeting of the South East Asian Anti-Biopiracy Programme.

Feb 25, 2001, Oaxaca, México; Silvia Ribeiro gave a speech on biopiracy and participated in workshops (as resource person) in the 2nd Forum on Natural Resources, organized by the Municipalities of Sierra Norte of Oaxaca. The forum had approximately 100 indigenous and peasant delegates from a dozen municipalities.

Feb 22-24, 2001, New York, NY, USA; Pat Mooney participated in a UNDP "Advisory Panel of Eminent Experts" for the 2001 issue of the Human Development Report.

Mar 2-5, 2001, Nurio, Michoac'an, México; Silvia Ribeiro served as Civil Society Observer at the 3rd National Indigenous Congress of Mexico. Silvia

served also as resource person for more than 3000 indigenous delegates from 47 nationalities (different ethnic groups from Mexico). The Congress included one point asking for a moratorium to all bioprospecting in Mexico in its 10-point declaration.

Mar 12-13, 2001, Minneapolis, USA; Pat Mooney attended the C.S. Fund Food Security preparatory meeting.

March 19, 2001, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro participated in a meeting of CSOs on bioprospecting in Mexico, with the Ministry for Natural Resources (SEMARNAT).

March 20, 2001, Montreal, QC, Canada; Julie Delahanty held a seminar on Biopiracy in the Andes with Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Network (IPBN) for the Expert Group Meeting on Access and Benefit Sharing of the CBD.

March 28-30, 2001, Quito, Ecuador; Silvia Ribeiro spoke about the impacts of intellectual property and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas on biodiversity and agriculture at the "Andean Meeting on FTAA and Their Economic and Environmental Impacts" meeting of Latin American CSOs organized by the Institute for Third World Environmental Studies.

April 3, 2001, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro participated in an evaluation meeting of CSOs with the Environmental Ombudsman (PROFEPA) on the results of the case against a bioprospecting contract of UNAM and Diversa Corporation.

April 6-7, 2001, Salem, MA, USA; Pat Mooney attended C.S. Fund Food Security Meeting and was a guest at the C.S. Fund Board Meeting.

April 23-27, 2001 Rome/Spoletto, Italy; Pat Mooney attended FAO CGRFA (9th Session) & Contact Group Meeting.

April 30-May 2, 2001, New York, NY, USA; Julie Delahanty attended CSD UNCED Prepcom (Rio+10) and spoke at a workshop on human genomics.

May 14 – 16, 2001, Frankfurt, Germany; Pat Mooney attended NGOC/ Civil Society Meeting.

June 14-17, 2001, San Cristobal, Chiapas, México; Silvia Ribeiro gave a speech on intellectual property and the rights of indigenous communities. She participated as resource person for the first week on biological and cultural diversity at the Forum for Cultural and Biological Diversity organized jointly by several local IPOs and CSOs.

July 5-7, 2001, Genoa, Italy; Hope Shand gave a workshop and speech at a conference sponsored by the Province of Genoa on local food security and biodiversity. The conference was attended by civil society organizations prior to the G8 meeting in Genoa.

August 10-11, 2001, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro participated as an observer in the Congress of the CLOC –Latin American Congress of Farmers' Organizations, Latin American branch of Via Campesina.

August 23-24, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro gave a speech on the work on biopiracy in Mexico, in the context of the "Seminar on civil society responses to NAFTA and other TNC strategies" organized by RMAC (Mexican Action Network on Free Trade) and Colegio de México.

LIST B: MEETINGS ATTENDED (Technology stream)

Sept 24-27, 2000, Bangalore, India; "Bija Panchayat - Seed Tribunal." Hope Shand gave a presentation on "New Threats from the Gene Giants."

Sept 28, Ottawa, Canada; Julie Delahanty participated in the Canadian Biosafety Consultations.

Oct 12-13, 2000, Des Moines, Iowa, USA; Hope Shand addressed the World Food Prize Symposium about biotechnology and intellectual property, including Golden Rice and Terminator.

Nov 20-25, 2000, Rome, Italy; Julie Delahanty was invited by the WHO and the Society for International Development (SID) to attend a meeting on

Public/Private Sector Partnerships where she discussed the issue of human gene collection.

Nov 29, 2000, Cochabamba, Bolivia; Pat Mooney met with NGOs to discuss the future biotechnologies at The Agricultural University.

Dec 4-8, 2000, Savar, Bangladesh; Julie Delahanty was a plenary speaker on "Biopiracy, Human Genomics and Generation 3" at The People's Health Assembly. She also held a workshop on "Human Gene Collection".

Jan 15-16, 2001, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro attended a seminar on biosafety organized by CIBIOGEM, the Mexican National Commission on Biosafety.

Jan 30, 2001, Ottawa, ON, Canada; Julie Delahanty participated in a meeting of the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee's Reference Group on GMO's.

Feb 13, 2001, Ottawa, ON, Canada; Julie Delahanty led a workshop at Carlton University on "New Enclosures".

Feb 16, 2001, Ottawa, Canada; Julie Delahanty presented a paper on GMOs & Generation 3 at a conference on "Science and the Public Good" organized by the Council of Canadians.

Feb 19, 2001, México City, México; Hope Shand gave a open public speech on future trends in agricultural biotechnology at a conference entitled "Transgenics, Industrial Offensive and Social Resistance", for 500 people

Feb 19-20, 2001, México City, México. Hope Shand gave a presentation on corporate concentration and food security and Silvia Ribeiro on TRIPs and indigenous knowledge at a UNEP-UNCTAD international conference "Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development".

Feb 24-26, 2001, New York, NY, USA; Pat Mooney gave speeches at a conference on Globalization sponsored by the International Forum on Globalization at Hunter College.

Feb 26, 2001, New York, NY, USA; Pat Mooney joined with other activists at a meeting of the "Action Group on Genomics".

Mar 8, 2001, Raleigh, NC, USA; Hope Shand lectured at North Carolina State University on the topic of genetically modified foods and the impact on farming communities.

Mar 12-16, 2001, Montreal, QC, Canada; Julie Delahanty participated in SBSSTA 6 (of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

April 16, 2001 New York, NY, USA; Pat Mooney met with the World Bank President (Wolfensohn) to provide CSO views on CGIAR, food security and biotechnology.

May 18-19, 2001, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Silvia Ribeiro attended a CSO meeting on biological warfare and ENMOD (Convention on the prohibition of Environmental Modification for hostile purposes). Organized by Sunshine Project, Third World Network, Edmonds Institute and hosted by the Transnational Institute.

May 20, 2001, Durban, South Africa; Silvia Ribeiro participated in workshop of Southern Africa's CSOs and Small Farmers' Organizations to discuss agricultural research and how to influence / monitor the CGIAR system. The workshop was organized by the African CGIAR- NGO Committee members, and supported by RAFI and German NGO Forum.

May 21-25, 2001, Durban, South Africa; Silvia Ribeiro attended the CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting. RAFI produced several papers - an Occasional Paper plus Genotypes and News Releases. Together with the German NGO Forum, RAFI also hosted a lunch briefing on May 22 on CSOs and farmers' views and proposals for changes at the CGIAR (in governance, structure and research orientation).

June 15-18, 2001, Ravello, Italy; Julie Delahanty attended ICBAR conference on "Biotechnology, Science and Modern Agriculture: a New Industry at

the Dawn of the Century".

June 19, 2001, México City, México; Silvia Ribeiro gave the introductory lecture, and participated in a panel on the current situation and future trends of GMOs at a 1-day open seminar organized by the México City Council (México City's Government).

June 26- 29, 2001, Uppsala, Sweden; ETC group staff co-hosted with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation of Sweden, an international seminar entitled "What Next? Technological Transformation: Addressing Nano-technology and Other Emerging Technologies in the ETC Century" with 30 delegates attending from 13 countries; Australia, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, The Philippines, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the USA.

August 6-7, 2001, Quito, Ecuador; Silvia Ribeiro spoke on the current situation and future trends of GMOs and of nanotechnology at the International Seminar on Food Aid and GMOs organized by the Network for Latin America Free of Transgenics.

LIST C: MEETINGS ATTENDED (Concentration stream)

April 30, 2001, New York, NY, USA; Pat Mooney and Julie Delahanty attended CSD UNCED Prepcom (Rio+ 10) and gave a seminar on the Treaty Initiative to Share the Genetic Commons.

May 17 2001, Amsterdam, Holland; Silvia Ribeiro participated at a round-table seminar on civil society strategies related to Agriculture, IPRs, and WTO, organized by Via Campesina and Friends of the Earth. A common declaration and several other CSO inputs at many different fora, including WTO in Qatar, were made as a result of this coordination.

May 20-21, 2001, St. Louis, Missouri, USA; Hope Shand gave a speech before the World Agricultural Forum on the topic of intellectual property and control of biotechnology.

Aug 8-9, 2001, Quito, Ecuador; Silvia Ribeiro spoke on GMOs and corporate concentration at the Latin American Seminar of the Network for Latin America free of transgenics.

Aug 12-14, 2001, Mexico City, México; Silvia Ribeiro attended the first international forum of social movements (a preparatory meeting for the 2nd World Social Forum in Porto Alegre 2002).

RAFI MEDIA RELATIONS AND COVERAGE IN THE NORTH

PROJECT CENSORED. Picked Chiapas Biopiracy as one of their top 25 under-reported stories for 2000. The story "Looting Indigenous Medicine in Chiapis" was selected as one of the "Most Censored" News Stories of 2000 Awards out of over 500 nominations. A synopsis of the story will appear in Chapter 1 of the book Censored 2001: The News That Didn't Make the News scheduled for release in March from Seven Stories Press.

The following are articles in which RAFI/ETC group is cited and interviews with ETC staff:

2000

Oct, 2000, Natural Life (USA); Court rules that mammals can be patented

Oct 2, Chemical & Engineering News (USA); Ag Biotech: Market Optimistic Despite Unresolved Issues

Oct 8, The Des Moines Register (USA); Symposium roster represents notable from around world

Oct 12, American Farm Bureau Radio (USA); interview with Hope Shand about biotechnology

Oct 31, BBC Television (UK); provided background information for a 3-part documentary

Oct 31, Houston Press Association (USA); interview with Hope Shand about the basmati rice patent

Nov 1, Dutch Television (Netherlands); interview with Hope Shand about Golden Rice

Nov 7, Inter Press Service (Geneva, Switzerland); Development: Indigenous Peoples Defend Traditional Knowledge

Nov 15, The Guardian (UK); Special report: Patenting life: The top secret life of plants

Nov 16, Nature (UK); Political uncertainty halts bioprospecting in Mexico

Nov 23, Houston Press (USA); RiceTec Paddy Whack

Winter, 2000; Re-generation Quarterly, (USA); Hard to Swallow

Dec 16, New Scientist (USA); Sold to the highest bidder

Dec 18, Canada NewsWire; Meeting of the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee Reference Group on the Regulation of GM Food

2001

Jan 10, KBOO-Radio, (Portland, USA); Pat Mooney interviewed on ag- biotechnology.

Jan 15, NHK- Japanese Public Television, (Japan); Interview with Pat Mooney about the patent application on the Guaymi cell line.

Mid-Jan, New York Times (USA); Interview with Pat Mooney on Agriculture and the FAO undertaking for a future series of articles.

Mid-Jan, Public Broadcast Radio (Seattle); Interview with Pat Mooney on New Developments in Biotechnologies and Nanotech.

Jan 25, BBC Radio 4, (UK); Interview with Hope Shand, Pat Mooney and Silvia Ribeiro about enola bean biopiracy.

Jan 27, Cox News Service, (USA); In Rebellious Chiapas, Mexican Indians Rebel Over Bioprospecting for Modern Medicine

Jan 30, Cox News Service, (USA); 'Bioprospecting' for modern medicine, Mexican Indians fear plunder of secrets, resist UGA plant study

Jan 30, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution (USA); 'Bioprospecting for modern medicine

Feb 2, National Public Radio (US); Interview with Silvia Ribeiro about biopiracy

Feb 2, Austin American-Statesman (USA); Who owns the plants?

Feb 12, BBC World Service, (UK); Interview with Silvia Ribeiro about transgenics

Feb 15, BBC: 'Costing the Earth' (UK); Interview with Silvia Ribeiro about Enola Beans

March 2001, Los Angeles (USA); "Seed Banks" by Margaret Wertheim of the Science and Society Column.

Mar 5, CBC Morning Show (Can); Interview with Pat Mooney about vitamin A rice

Mar 20, 2001, New York Times (USA); RAFI was cited in a article by Timothy Pratt titled "Small Yellow Bean Sets Off International Patent Dispute."

April 2001, The Atlantic Monthly (USA); RAFI was cited in an article by Steve Olson in titled "The Genetic Archeology of Race".

April 16, 2001, Newsweek (USA); RAFI cited in an article about Brent Berlin and Chiapas biopiracy.

May 10, 2001; Julie Delahanty was interviewed about biocolonialism and nanotechnology by Alexandre Piquard

August 8, 2001; Edmonton, Pat interviewed on World Wide TV about seed biodiversity

RAFI MEDIA RELATIONS AND COVERAGE IN THE SOUTH

2000

Sept 24-26; (India); Hope Shand gave numerous media interviews about the control and ownership of genetic engineering, the implications for India, Terminator/Traitor Technology and intellectual property. Some of the coverage included: The New Indian Express; The Economic Times; Frontline – India's National Magazine; Asia News International; New Delhi Television – NDTV; Government of India Television News

October 2, Milenio semanal, México DF, México. Biopiratería en los Altos de Chiapas, Fernando Varela Arellano.

Oct 5, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Recomiendan dar la batalla contra la patente de propiedad del pozol

Oct 5, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Condena saqueo de recursos genéticos

Oct 6, Televisa (Mexico DF, Mexico); interview with Hope Shand regarding Grupo Pulsar's Seminis, about seeds and the implications for Mexican farmers

Oct 7, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Pozol y biopiratería

Oct 9, La Jornada: Ojarasca, Vol 24 (Mexico DF, Mexico); Erosión Cultural, by Pat Mooney

Oct 9, La Jornada: Ojarasca, Vol 24 (Mexico DF, Mexico); Los Ladrones andan sueltos

Oct 9, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); La piratería genética ocasiona el ecocidio: Armando Bartra

Oct 10, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); UNAM-Diversa va a la Profepa

Oct 12, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Niega Semarnap permiso para proyecto de bioprospección

Oct 13, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Rechaza la CONABIO moratoria a proyectos de bioprospección.

Oct 17, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Biodiversidad, la mayor riqueza de Mexico

Oct 17, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); El contrato UNAM-Diversa, dentro de la ley: Provençio

Dec 23, La Jornada (Mexico DF, Mexico); Comiendo con el Enemigo; by Silvia Ribeiro

2001

Jan 10, Associated Press (Mexico DF, Mex); Interview with Pat Mooney about biopiracy.

Jan 15, Earthtimes (Manila, Philippines); Companies rush to patent wildlife of the Philippines

Feb 1, International Center for Tropical Agriculture website, (Cali, Columbia); RAFI's Enola bean news release

Feb 12, La Jornada (Mexico, Mexico DF); Cuestiona la Profepa acuerdos de bioprospección

Mid-Feb, Lapis Magazine, (New York); Filmed 3 talks by Pat Mooney cable TV broadcast.

Feb 22, 2001, El Universal titled "Siembras con organismos vivos modificados: Decae popularidad de cultivos transgénicos, Venezuelan newspaper"

March 23, 2001, La Jornada, México, "Piden 14 ecologistas la aprobacion de la Ley Cocopa" (Pat Mooney quoted on the indigenous law in Mexico)

March 23, 2001, "Biopiraterie a la Mexicaine", interview with Silvia Ribeiro, Le Point, France.

April 8, 2001; La Jornada, México, in Masiosare; "Alerta agricultores, pongan condon a sus cultivos"

April 30, La jornada, México, Frijol: un caso del silencioso abandono de los recursos genéticos en Mexico.

April 2001; Interview for "Seeds of Contention" by Andrew Luck-Baker of the BBC Science Radio Unit. Launched on-line.

May 12, La Jornada, Silvia Ribeiro: Los expedients X de los transgenicos