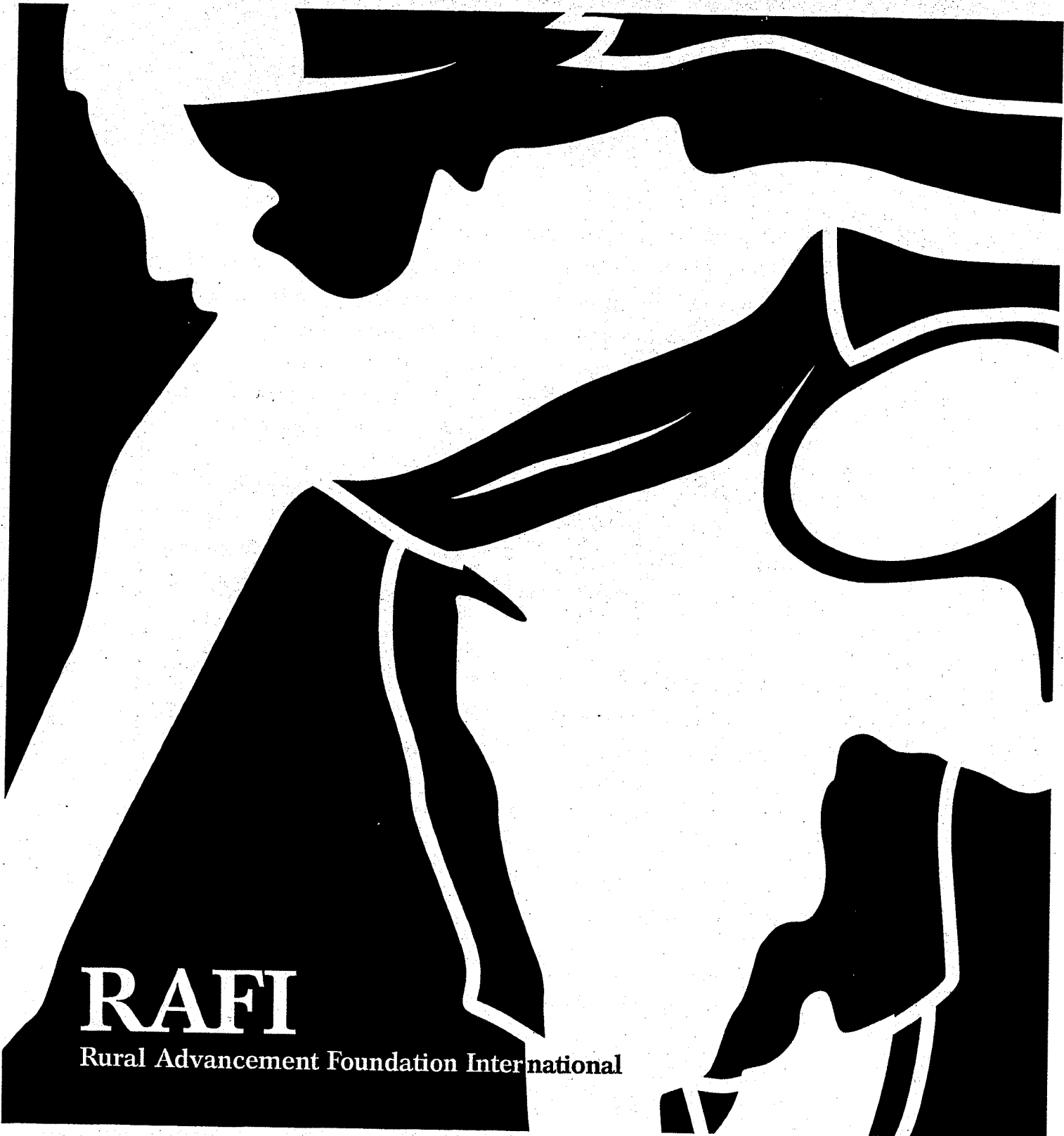


ANNUAL REPORT



RAFI

Rural Advancement Foundation International

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President's Message



RAFI's 1996/97 programme year began with a bang. Dubbed "The Year of Agricultural Biodiversity" or "The Year of Living Dangerously" by many, the final quarter of 1996 held the World Food Summit, the Biodiversity Convention (focusing on agriculture) and follow-up negotiations to the June 1996 Leipzig Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. Then on December 10th, Human Rights Day, the US Government formally abandoned its patent on the cell line of a Hagahai man from Papua New Guinea, bringing a happy ending to a two-year campaign by indigenous peoples and RAFI.

The pace hardly slackened in 1997. During our fiscal year, RAFI staff and board cooperated on three seminar series, in the Philippines, the Andean region, and South Asia. In addition, RAFI provided support to a regional workshop for African governments in Ethiopia and contributed human and material resources to other seminars for FAO germplasm negotiators in Rome.

As always, however, much of RAFI's staff time was devoted to research and strategic planning. In the lead-up to the UN General Assembly's Special Session (Rio+Five), RAFI extended its research on the use of *ordre public* (public morality) as a means to reject life patents individually and collectively. RAFI also conducted new research on some of the world's most offensive patents, updated its database on bioprospecting and biopiracy, and tracked the rapidly merging life industries. RAFI published, in English and Spanish, its primer on intellectual property titled, "Enclosures of the Mind" and wrote several other book-length publications that will appear shortly.

As you read this report, I think you will agree that the Year of Living Dangerously has been replaced by the Year of New Resources.



Sven Hamrell
President, RAFI Board of Trustees



PROGRAMME REPORT

The opening quarter of RAFI's financial year marked the culmination of several years' work in the policy arena, and the beginning of the next round of research and policy advocacy. In September and October 1996, at the UN Committee on World Food Security, governments negotiated the final wording for the World Food Summit's Plan of Action, which though weak, was announced with great fanfare at the Summit in Rome in November. Parallel to the Food Summit, the Third Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (COP III) also met in Buenos Aires, Argentina and discussed agricultural biodiversity. RAFI analysed the negotiating documents for both these events, took part in many of their preparatory meetings, and cooperated with other civil society organizations to enhance their impact on the negotiations. RAFI staff attended both conferences, assessed their outcomes, and began to strategize about what to do in their aftermath. These two intergovernmental processes focused attention on many of RAFI's concerns – about agricultural biodiversity and food security, biopiracy, and intellectual property regimes. What they did, and did not achieve has set the stage for RAFI's work in the year ahead.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

There are two annexes to the 1996/97 *RAFI Annual Report*. One is a summary of *RAFI's Impact*. The other is *RAFI's Financial Report*, including audited financial statement. Both are available in print, on request. Both are also available on RAFI's website:

<http://www.rafi.ca>

Issue I:

Biodiversity & Food Security

RESEARCH AND ACTION – BIODIVERSITY AND FOOD SECURITY

World Food Summit – Preparations and Follow through – RAFI worked actively throughout 1996/97 at the national, regional, and international level to strengthen civil society's contribution to the World Food Summit. In particular, RAFI worked to link, and ensure consistency between the Summit process, follow-up to the *Global Plan of Action* from the Leipzig conference on plant genetic resources, and the agricultural agenda of COP III. In North America, RAFI provided leadership among civil society organizations (CSOs), attending four consultations with Canadian and/or US government officials, appearing before Canada's Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, and updating its 1993 paper entitled *Agrigenda 21* as a backgrounder for governments and CSOs. In two RAFI Translators, RAFI analysed the Food Summit's draft texts: The *Rome Declaration* and *Plan of Action*. Pat Mooney worked in Rome with 320 CSOs from around the world to offer ideas, information, and analysis to negotiators in the crucial weeks leading up to the November Summit. During this critical and sensitive final phase, RAFI edited nine issues of a shared CSO news-sheet dubbed *The [Bread] Bracket*, providing up-to-the-minute information and interpretation of the unfolding intergovernmental debate. Copies were also faxed to national capitals. During the Summit itself, Jean Christie edited five issues of a daily newsletter for the Global Network on Food Security, which was disseminated electronically around the world.

RAFI shares the widely-held view that the Summit's achievements were modest and that its primary success lay in drawing the world's attention back to the central importance of food security. Nonetheless, RAFI has supported ongoing work for a legal accord on the Right to Food, and is working with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CSOs to ensure that the concept of "hunger mapping" not only provides a geopolitical map of world hunger, but also exposes its root causes and points the way to human



solutions. RAFI is also encouraging governments and FAO to pursue the "Food for All Campaign" endorsed by the Summit.

Follow-up to the Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources – With energetic support from RAFI, the Leipzig *Global Plan of Action* was endorsed by the Food Summit and the Biodiversity Convention in November '96. In December, Edward Hammond participated in the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which continued negotiations for a revised International Undertaking on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including Farmers' Rights. Clearly, Leipzig has quickened the political pace: the Commission convened again in May '97 for highly productive discussions, and several informal governmental meetings are also underway. Prior to the May negotiations, in cooperation with GAIA Foundation (UK), Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN, of Spain), and other CSOs, RAFI supported a key African intergovernmental consultation on the Undertaking and worked closely with African delegations throughout the process. Following the May session, RAFI proposed a process of governmental consultations which has been taken up, and another Commission meeting may be convened before the end of '97. As in 1995/96, much of RAFI's work on the Leipzig conference follow-up, Biodiversity Convention, and Food Summit was done in close cooperation with the GAIA Foundation, GRAIN, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (USA), the Institute for Sustainable Development (Ethiopia), and the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy (India).

Review of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) – In 1995 RAFI called for a long-overdue external review of the governance and research agenda of the 16 research centres that form the CGIAR. Under heavy pressure from civil society critics and donor governments, the CGIAR formally adopted plans for a system-wide External Review in May '97. A nine member review panel, led by Maurice Strong, will report in mid-1998. RAFI has worked closely with Mr. Strong and his secretariat to ensure that the review process hears the voices of farmers, South governments, and CSOs. To facilitate this, RAFI has created a special website for information and ideas concerning the review process, and has written a Communiqué entitled *The CGIAR's Third External Review* to provide background information and an analysis of the External Review panel and process. Pat Mooney has been asked to serve on a resource panel for the Review.

Cooperation with Peasant Organizations in Bolivia and Peru – In cooperation with national CSOs and agencies of the Lutheran Church working in the Andean region, Pat Mooney assisted with a number of seminars and workshops in Santa Cruz, La Paz, Lima, Cuzco and Cajamarca during March and April 1997. The seminars considered follow-up to the Food Summit, the External Review of the CGIAR, negotiations on plant genetic resources, and regional concerns about biopiracy and intellectual property. RAFI established particularly close relations with the National Association of Quinoa Producers in Bolivia and with national partners of the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme. Among the results was an agreement to work with a coalition of Andean organizations against a US patent on quinoa, and to work with governments to bring other examples of biopiracy to international attention.

Cooperation with South Asian Network on Food, Ecology and Culture – In August 1997 Jean Christie attended a conference in Tangail District, Bangladesh, organized for the South Asian Network on Food, Ecology and Culture by Bangladeshi organization UBINIG. The conference was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, and attended by 30 representatives from sustainable agriculture organizations in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. It focused on the links between community-based sustainable agriculture and multilateral policy negotiations, and concluded with a detailed plan for local, national, South Asian, and international action – including future cooperation with RAFI. Jean spoke on biopiracy, intellectual property agreements, and the Biodiversity Convention. She later took part in a national panel for government officials and scientists, which prompted the Agriculture Minister to request a fuller briefing on these issues.

PUBLICATIONS – BIODIVERSITY AND FOOD SECURITY

- ◆ September '96 – RAFI Translator 1/3: *Food Last?* A clause-by-clause analysis of a heavily bracketed early draft of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.
- ◆ September '96 – RAFI Translator 1/4: *Security or Dependence? Draft World Food Summit Declaration and Plan of Action Entrench Food Insecurity.* An analysis of the official texts.
- ◆ September, October and November '96: nine issues of *The [Bread] Bracket*. A CSO newsletter coordinated by RAFI at events leading up to the World Food Summit, and at the Summit itself.



- ◆ November '97 – RAFI Occasional Paper 3/2: *Stakeholders and Steak Eaters – Toward a Third System Movement*. A review for CSOs of the negotiating context and critical issues facing the World Food Summit and COP III.
- ◆ February '97 – RAFI Occasional Paper 4/1: *Guiding Global Governance In 1996: A Civil Society Perspective on Food Security, Agriculture and Biodiversity Issues in the Multilateral Arena*. A review of the achievements and failures of the World Food Summit and COP III.
- ◆ May '97 – RAFI Translator 2/1: *Meeting of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. An analysis of the agenda and major issues under negotiation.
- ◆ May/June '97 – RAFI Communiqué: *Sovereignty or Hegemony? Africa and Security: Negotiating from Reality*. A study assessing the dependence of some African countries on foreign agricultural genetic resources, and an evaluation of the South's multilateral negotiating position on access to germplasm.
- ◆ June '97 – RAFI Occasional Paper 4/2: *The Aksum Commission – CGFRA – Guiding Global Governance – A Civil Society Report*. A review of negotiations in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the role played by 20 key governments.
- ◆ July/August '97 – RAFI Communiqué: *The CGIAR's Third External Review*. A history of the review process, an analysis of the panel's composition, and proposals for CSO participation in the External Review.
- ◆ August '97 – *Human Nature: Agricultural Biodiversity and Farm-Based Food Security*. A book by Hope Shand, for publication by the FAO in late '97.

Issue II: **Biopolicy**

RESEARCH AND ACTION – BIOPOLICY

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – Since the CBD was signed in 1992, RAFI has worked with other CSOs and indigenous peoples' organizations to strengthen governmental decision-making on such concerns as agricultural biodiversity; access to, and control of genetic resources; indigenous peoples' knowledge; and Farmers' Rights. In September '96, three RAFI staff attended a Montreal meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). RAFI worked with Cultural Survival Canada, the Indigenous People's Biodiversity Network (IPBN), and other CSO partners to conduct several seminars and workshops, and to produce the *BioTalk* newsletter. In particular, RAFI sought to maintain coherence between the Convention's work on agricultural biodiversity, results of the Leipzig Plant Genetic Resources negotiations, and the imminent Food Summit. RAFI also raised concerns about the role of transnational corporations using Northern botanical garden collections to gain access to the South's biodiversity, thus side-stepping the spirit of the Convention. In November RAFI's Edward Hammond and Pat Mooney attended COP III in Buenos Aires. In conjunction with the IPBN and SEARICE, RAFI again published *BioTalk*, and chaired and participated in a series of workshops on Convention issues.

Crucible Seminar on Botanical Gardens – Immediately after SBSTTA, Beverly Cross coordinated a seminar in Montreal for the Crucible Group, to consider how botanical gardens might deal with the question of access to their plant collections, in light of the Biodiversity Convention. The seminar was attended by about 20 individuals, from multilateral agencies, governments, industry, botanical gardens, and CSOs, from North and South. RAFI had researched and produced a Communiqué for the occasion, published in July/August '96.

Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme (CBDC) – RAFI remained an active partner in the CBDC, for the third of a four-year initiative involving



community-based agricultural CSOs from 14 countries, and a technical support team from the Dutch Gene Bank and Norway's international agricultural research institute, NORAGRIC. With Barcelona-based GRAIN, RAFI continued to coordinate the CBDC's International Policy Programme, producing materials for use in CBDC education and training activities. These resources dealt with debates and negotiations in the policy arena relevant to community-based seed conservation and use. During the year, RAFI and GRAIN also worked with CBDC partners from Africa, Asia and Latin America, to ensure that voices from farming communities of the South were heard in intergovernmental policy forums. In early March 1997, RAFI participated in several CBDC policy seminars in the Philippines, hosted by CBDC Asian coordinator, SEARICE. Later in the year RAFI worked with other CBDC partners to plan the programme's mid-term review, scheduled for the last quarter of '97. Plans to extend CBDC's impact and publish its results are likely to be adopted.

PUBLICATIONS – BIOPOLICY

- ◆ September and November '96, May '97 – RAFI worked with other CSOs at the CBD's SBSTTA, COP III and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, to produce nine non-governmental newsletters called *BioTalk*. Each analysed the key issues being negotiated, and provided timely background information for government negotiators and civil society observers.
- ◆ October '96 – *Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme (CBDC) Protocol*. The text of the agreement which guides relations between all CBDC partners.
- ◆ November '96 – *Enclosures of the Mind: Intellectual Monopolies*. An 80-page resource booklet produced for the CBDC, on community knowledge, biodiversity and intellectual property.
- ◆ August '97 – *Confinamientos de la Razon: Monopolios Intelectuales*. Spanish translation of *Enclosures of the Mind*.
- ◆ August '97 – *The Parts of Life*. A new book-length issue of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation's journal *Development Dialogue*, which provides an update on issues relating to plant genetic resources. Written by Pat Mooney, for publication in late '97.

Issue III:

**Biopiracy &
Intellectual Property**

RESEARCH AND ACTION – BIOPIRACY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Human Patent Dropped – In December 1996, RAFI savoured a victory. After intense pressure by RAFI and indigenous peoples' organizations, the US National Institutes of Health abandoned its controversial patent on the cell line of a Hagahal man from Papua New Guinea. This followed the earlier withdrawal of US government patent applications on cell lines from indigenous people in Panama and the Solomon Islands, which RAFI had opposed since late '93.

Human Tissue Collection and Patenting – Throughout 1996/97, RAFI continued to oppose the unethical collection and patenting of human tissue samples worldwide. In September '96, RAFI held a press conference in Washington DC, and testified before a committee of the US National Academy of Sciences. It was reviewing the ethical implications and scientific validity of the Human Genome Diversity Project (HGDP), which RAFI had monitored since '93. With funding from the World Council of Churches and Agricultural Missions (USA), RAFI arranged for indigenous people from Colombia and the Solomon Islands to go to Washington and testify at the public hearing. For the first time, the committee heard directly from people whose communities had been affected by DNA sampling or the patenting of human genetic material. RAFI and indigenous peoples organizations called on the US government to deny future funding to the HGDP.

Also in September '96, RAFI worked with indigenous peoples' organizations to publicize concerns relevant to the First International Conference on DNA Sampling, held in Montreal – including the ethics of human tissue collection and the potential for patent claims. In October, Hope Shand and Edward Hammond spoke at a Harvard University conference organized by the Council for Responsible Genetics, entitled *Resisting the Commercialization of our Genes*. In January/February '97 RAFI published a Communiqué entitled *The Human Tissue Trade – The Global Traffic and Market in Human Biomaterials*, which assembled data about who is collecting human tissue samples around the world,



who is using the material, who is patenting it, and for what purposes. It raised policy concerns about regulating the human tissue trade and prior informed consent, against the backdrop of commercialization and intellectual property claims.

Human Cloning? – It is hardly an exaggeration to say that “cloning” became a global household word in 1997, after the startling announcement in February that Scottish researchers had successfully cloned the world’s first mammal, a sheep named “Dolly”. Now that a sheep had been cloned, would a shepherd be far behind? In May ‘97 RAFI revealed that the worldwide patents on the Dolly cloning technique had been published by the World Intellectual Property Organization, and would now be considered by national patent offices the world over. They are not limited to cloning sheep; they cover all mammals, and do not exclude humans. In the aftermath of the Dolly announcement, RAFI monitored the international debate on human cloning.

In May, Edward Hammond attended the World Health Assembly in Geneva, providing delegates with information about the Dolly patents. As a result, several African and Pacific governments led a move which strengthened the Assembly’s resolution on human cloning. RAFI also sent briefing papers to UNESCO’s Bioethics Committee, which was convening in Paris to discuss UNESCO’s Draft Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights. In June, at a scientific meeting on human cloning in Washington, Hope Shand of RAFI and the US Council for Responsible Genetics called on the US government to support a stronger ban on human cloning, and called on Dolly’s “inventors” at the Roslin Institute of Scotland to abandon their controversial patent claims.

Soybean Patent Challenge – In 1994, RAFI received free legal services to challenge an exceptionally broad soybean patent, on moral and technical grounds. Originally granted to Agracetus by the European Patent Office (EPO), the patent covers all transgenic soybeans, genetically manipulated by any means, using any foreign genes. Transnational giant Monsanto also challenged the patent, but then bought out Agracetus, and immediately dropped its opposition, choosing instead to defend the patent. The process to deal with RAFI’s challenge inched forward in December ‘96, when RAFI’s lawyer responded to the patent-holder and filed additional legal arguments with the EPO. An oral hearing is expected in ‘98.

Quinoa Patent Opposition – In late 1996 RAFI unearthed information that two agronomists from Colorado State University had received US and Australian patents on the male sterile seeds of a traditional Bolivian quinoa variety named “Apelawa.” RAFI reported

these patents in December '96 and quickly wrote and translated information about them for dissemination in the Andes. Bolivia's National Association of Quinoa Producers (ANAPQUI) immediately prepared to protest this foreign monopoly over their high-protein food crop. While in Bolivia and Peru in March '97, Pat Mooney met with ANAPQUI leaders, other farmers' organizations, plant breeders and government officials, and began work with them to oppose the patents. In June '97 RAFI secured funds from Canadian Lutheran World Relief, IBIS of Denmark, Agricultural Missions and Lutheran World Relief in the USA, for two ANAPQUI leaders to attend the United Nations "Rio + 5" Summit in New York, where governments met to assess progress during the five years since the Earth Summit. ANAPQUI publicized the quinoa patents among delegates and in the media, and succeeded in having the patents denounced in the UN General Assembly, in a rare official statement by indigenous peoples. While in New York, RAFI and ANAPQUI jointly testified at the Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights, presenting three cases where patents, including the quinoa ones, had violated human rights. RAFI is hopeful that the quinoa patents will be dropped in the coming year.

Ordre Public – Kicking off a new campaign at Rio+Five in June 1997, RAFI distributed a paper entitled *Are Patents Out of Control? Patents and Ordre Public*, principally researched by Edward Hammond. In it, RAFI described and documented the worldwide status of 20 especially-offensive life patents, for example on food crops, sacred and medicinal plants, human cell lines and human umbilical cord blood. RAFI proposed an international campaign to challenge these and other morally offensive patents in patent offices worldwide, using an obscure intellectual property concept known as *ordre public*, or public morality. This strategy will likely become part of an coordinated global effort to bring the matter of life patenting to the World Court.

World Court Strategy – In April 1997, Jean Christie attended the New York meeting of the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development, using the occasion to meet embassy staff and civil society organizations from the South to discuss specific cases of biopiracy, and a strategy to bring the issue of "life patenting" before the World Court. Three RAFI staff continued this effort at the Rio+5 Summit in New York in June. RAFI will work with other CSOs to mount this campaign in 1997/98.



PUBLICATIONS – BIOPIRACY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- ◆ December '96 – RAFI Communiqué: *1996 Biopiracy Update – US Patents Claim Exclusive Monopoly Control of Food Crops, Medicinal Plants, Soil Microbes and Traditional Knowledge from the South*
- ◆ January/February '97 – RAFI Communiqué: *The Human Tissue Trade – The Global Traffic and Market in Human Biomaterials*
- ◆ June '97 – *Are Patents Out of Control? Patents and Ordre Public*. A chart and summary of 20 outrageous life patents and their status in 30 countries, and a summary of GATT TRIPS clauses on *ordre public*.
- ◆ June '97 – *Biopirates Log*, Four in a new series of biopiracy fact sheets (on ayahuasca, kava, sangre de drago and quinoa), jointly published with Cultural Survival Canada, for the Rio + 5 Summit.
- ◆ August '97 – *Enclosing Australia's Biodiversity Commons*. A chapter written by Jean Christie, for a book to be published in Australia by Alan and Unwin, late '97.
- ◆ August '97 – *Custodians of Creation: Cultures and Biodiversity*. A wall map linking cultural and biological diversity, to be published by RAFI and Cultural Survival Canada in late '97.

Issue IV:

Biotechnology

RESEARCH AND ACTION – BIOTECHNOLOGY

Life industries research – Throughout 1996/97 RAFI conducted research on the "life industry", examining the power and global reach of the giant transnational enterprises that use, buy, sell and control an ever-growing market share of bio-industrial products. The business of the life industry ranges from food processing, seed production, plant breeding and agrochemicals to pharmaceuticals and veterinary medicines. RAFI compiled charts on the top10 corporations in each sector, their global market share, and the role of technology and patent power. This and other research was assembled in a Communiqué called *the Life Industry*. Another ground-breaking Communiqué entitled *Bioserfdom* analysed alarming new trends in industrial agriculture. RAFI will provide updated information on the life industry in 1997/98.

Geno-types Introduced – In March 1997 Hope Shand and Edward Hammond introduced RAFI's new electronic news service, under the masthead *Geno-types*. In short articles it provides up-to-the-minute analysis of industry events and trends, and disseminates new RAFI research findings. *Geno-types* now accounts for about 15% of all RAFI website use, and vies with new Communiqués as the most frequently-sought information on the internet.

Requests for Research Assistance – During the year RAFI responded to research requests from many countries. A researcher in Argentina, for example, requested information on the marketing of transgenic cotton. IBIS (Denmark) requested data on the life industries. A German organization requested figures on the cost of genetically engineered seeds in the USA, and information on the licensing agreements that American farmers must sign in order to buy patented seed. The Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (India) requested information on US plant patenting laws, and their impact on Farmers' Rights. Pesticides Action Network (Indonesia) sought information on new forms of intellectual property laws being drafted worldwide. SEARICE (Philippines) asked for



help in searching for patents on compounds derived from SE Asian snails. Earth Love Foundation (UK) requested information about bioprospecting in Peru. On these, and dozens of other occasions, RAFI provided current information. All RAFI staff answer requests, but much of this quick-response work falls to Beverly Cross.

Philippine Seminars – In late February and early March 1997, several RAFI staff joined SEARICE in the Philippines to plan joint activities and to cooperate on a series of regional and national seminars on biopiracy and agricultural biodiversity. Beverly Cross arranged staff participation with RAFI trustee and SEARICE coordinator Rene Salazar. Hope Shand presented her new research on “bioserfdom” and “precision agriculture” in the industrialized world. Pat Mooney conducted two seminars with government officials, and all visited CBDC projects in the area. SEARICE and RAFI agreed on future work to document and publicize biopiracy in South East Asia.

PUBLICATIONS – BIOTECHNOLOGY

- ◆ September '96 – RAFI Communiqué: *The Life Industry*
- ◆ March/April '97 – RAFI Communiqué: *Bioserfdom: Technology, Intellectual Property and Erosion of Farmers' Rights in the Industrialized World*
- ◆ June '97 – *The Ownership of Life: When Patents and Values Clash*. A briefing book for US foundations, co-authored by Hope Shand and Marty Teitel.

Information Services & Outreach

Detailed records of all RAFI publications, media contacts and coverage, and speaking engagements for 1996 and 1997 are available as appendices to RAFI's *Annual Reports*, entitled *RAFI's Impact*. A short overview of RAFI's outreach follows.

Publications – The RAFI Communiqué remains RAFI's regular research publication, and appears six times a year. All issues are primarily researched, written and edited by Hope Shand and Edward Hammond. Each provides timely information and analysis on trends in biotechnology, the life industries, or life patenting. Paper copies are mailed to 750 policy makers, civil society organizations and researchers around the world. RAFI publishes other documents as well, including RAFI Occasional Papers and RAFI Translators. These and other substantial publications are listed above with the relevant programme highlights. A complete list of shorter articles by RAFI staff is included in *RAFI's Impact*.

Media Outreach and Speaking Engagements – Throughout the year RAFI staff provided information and interviews to media houses around the world, and spoke widely at public events, seminars and conferences. Eight media releases were distributed. News reports, in-depth stories and documentaries were carried by radio, television and print media, including international wire services, national broadcasters and specialty publications. During 1996/97, RAFI recorded 113 substantial media contacts in 14 countries of the industrialized North, and 22 contacts in nine countries of the South, in addition to coverage in several Asia- and Pacific-wide publications. RAFI staff spoke at 53 events during the year, in 14 countries. Audiences included the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Stockholm), the Eighth European Congress on Biotechnology (Budapest), government officials in the Philippines (Tagbilaran and Manila), the North American Community Gardening Association (Montreal), and civil society, academic and agricultural gatherings from Bangladesh to Bolivia, and from the Philippines to Peru.

Electronic Communications – RAFI is highly accessible electronically. All publications, including research, *Annual Reports*, and *Financial Reports* are available on RAFI's website, which is created and managed in-house by Edward Hammond. An effort to promote the



site paid off during the year with a dramatic increase in visitors. Calculated on an annual basis, RAFI's server now delivers 50,000 WWW pages a year to over 7,000 Internet "surfers" in at least 60 countries. RAFI also operates an internet listserver that distributes information updates to 400 electronic mail users on a regular basis. This system allows RAFI to deliver late-breaking news to subscribers' electronic mailboxes extremely quickly, and to distribute electronic information in Southern countries that do not have widespread access to the world wide web.

RAFI's website address is

<http://www.rafi.ca>

WWW.RAFI.CA

Thank You!



RAFI extends a sincere thank you to the many organizations whose generous financial support contributed to RAFI programmes in 1996/97. They are:

- ◆ Agricultural Missions (USA)
- ◆ Agri-Food Canada
- ◆ Canadian Environmental Law Association
- ◆ Canadian International Development Agency – NGO Division
- ◆ Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- ◆ Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme – CBDC (Chile)
- ◆ CPRO-DLO Centre for Genetic Resources (The Netherlands)
- ◆ CS Fund (USA)
- ◆ Cultural Survival Canada
- ◆ DANIDA – Danish International Development Agency
- ◆ Dutch Ministry for International Cooperation – DGIS (The Netherlands)
- ◆ Educational Foundation of America (USA)
- ◆ Foundation for Ecology and Development (USA)
- ◆ GAIA Foundation (UK)
- ◆ HKH Foundation (USA)
- ◆ IBIS (Denmark)



- ◆ Interchurch Action – formerly ICFID (Canada)
- ◆ International Development Research Centre (Canada)
- ◆ Inter Pares (Canada)
- ◆ International Plant Genetic Resources Institute – IPGRI (Italy)
- ◆ Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation (USA)
- ◆ Lutheran World Relief (USA)
- ◆ Moriah Fund (USA)
- ◆ New England Biolabs (USA)
- ◆ NORAGRIC (Norway)
- ◆ Percy Gardiner Foundation (Canada)
- ◆ Right Livelihood Award Foundation (Sweden)
- ◆ SIDA – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- ◆ United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
- ◆ World Council of Churches

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- ◆ Sven Hamrell, Uppsala, Sweden: RAFI President, senior advisor of Dag Hammarskjold Foundation
- ◆ Tim Brodhead, Montreal, Canada: RAFI Treasurer, VP and Chief Executive Officer, J.W. McConnell Foundation
- ◆ Alejandro Argumedo, Peru/Canada: Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network
- ◆ Elizabeth Bravo, Quito, Ecuador: lecturer in biology and environmental activist
- ◆ Ann Danaiya Usher, Norway/Thailand: Journalist
- ◆ Rene Salazar, Manila, Philippines: community organizer and Coordinator of SEARICE
- ◆ Sarojeni Rengam, Penang, Malaysia: Asian Coordinator, Pesticides Action Network
- ◆ Helen Vinton, New Iberia, USA: President, Southern Research and Development Corporation

- ◆ Kathryn Waller, Savannah, USA: Past Executive Director of Rural Advancement Fund/National Sharecroppers Fund; founding president of RAFI-USA
- ◆ Melaku Worede, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: scientific advisor African Seeds of Survival

ADVISORY COUNCIL

- ◆ Erna Bennett, Katoomba, Australia: retired plant geneticist and journalist; founder of FAO's Crop Ecology Unit in the 1960s
- ◆ Anwar Fazal, Penang, Malaysia: Past President of International Organization of Consumers' Unions and founding director of its Asia office
- ◆ Tessa Huxley, New York, USA: community garden activist and park administrator
- ◆ Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: world-renowned African historian and writer

- ◆ Daniel Pollitt, Chapel Hill, USA: retired Keenan Professor of Law, University of North Carolina
- ◆ Ursula Schulz-Dornburg, Dusseldorf, Germany: photographer and artist
- ◆ Charles Weitz, Portland, USA: retired senior FAO official and founder of the FAO Freedom From Hunger Campaign in the 1960s

STAFF

- ◆ Pat Mooney, Executive Director
- ◆ Jean Christie, Director of International Liaison
- ◆ Beverly Cross, Office Manager
- ◆ Edward Hammond, Programme Officer (RAFI-USA)
- ◆ Hope Shand, Director of Research (RAFI-USA)
- ◆ Kathy Zaumseil, Administrative Assistant (RAFI-USA)
- ◆ Maurice St. Pierre, Accountant (part time)

RAFI (The Rural Advancement Foundation International) is an international civil society organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, and governed by a Board of Trustees with members from six 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 consulting status with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and in 1997 received roster status with ECOSOC, the United Nations Economic and Social Council. RAFI is a member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation.

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