

RAFI's Impact: 1997 Review

RAFI Publications, Media Coverage, and Outreach

The impact of RAFI publications and media outreach is impossible to measure. Publicity is not an end in itself, and may have no discernible results. Recognizing the limitations of quantitative indicators, we have nonetheless compiled the following record, to give an indication of RAFI's reach. It includes lists of *RAFI Communiqués*, *Occasional Papers*, a *RAFI Translator*, News Releases, and other publications where we know RAFI material appeared in 1997. These are followed by summaries of media coverage in the North and South, and a calendar of speaking engagements and other events with a multiplier effect, where RAFI's message was disseminated. Finally, there is a summary of RAFI's electronic information services which are now central to RAFI's information dissemination. Because we have conducted an electronic periodical search for media references in North America, coverage in these tables is significantly skewed in favour of North America. Media impact in Europe and the South is almost certainly under-represented. Citations of RAFI material in academic journals have not been included, because they are not monitored systematically.

RAFI Communiqués 1997

- **January/February 1997:** *The Human Tissue Trade - The Global Traffic and Market in Human Biomaterials*
- **March/April 1997:** *Bioserfdom: Technology, Intellectual Property and Erosion of Farmers' Rights in the Industrialized World*
- **May/June 1997:** *Sovereignty or Hegemony? Africa and Security: Negotiating from Reality*
- **July/August 1997:** *CGIAR's Third External Review*
- **September/October 1997:** *Biopiracy Update - The Inequitable Sharing of Benefits*
- **November/December 1997:** *The Life Industry 1997 - The Global Enterprises that Dominate Commercial Agriculture, Food and Health*

RAFI Occasional Papers 1997:

- **vol. 4, no. 1, February 1997:** *Guiding Global Governance in 1996: A Civil Society Perspective on Food Security, Agriculture and Biodiversity Issues in the Multilateral Arena*
- **vol. 4, no. 2, June 1997:** *The Aksum Commission - CGFRA - Guiding Global Governance - A Civil Society Report*
- **vol. 4, no. 3, November 1997:** *CGIAR Governance in 1997 - Governance and the CG's Third Review*

RAFI Translator 1997:

In 1996, RAFI launched the *RAFI Translator* series. These publications provide an analysis of official texts, for NGOs and policy-makers worldwide. In 1997 RAFI produced one issue.

- **vol. 2, no. 1, May 1997:** *Meeting of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

RAFI News Releases 1997:

- **May 8:** *Dolly Goes to Market - World Patents on Sheep Clones Include Humans*
- **June 16:** *Bioethics Commission Report is "Dolly in Wolf's Clothing"*
- **June 18:** (issued jointly with ANAPQUI, Bolivia's National Association of Quinoa Producers) *Bolivian Farmers Demand Researchers Drop Patent on Andean Food Crop / Agricultores Bolivianos Reclaman a los Investigadores para que Suspendan la Patente de la Cosecha de Alimentos Andinos*
- **June 24:** *Rio+5=Biopiracy2 - Five Years After Earth Summit Biodiversity Still on Decline While Biopiracy Grows Exponentially*
- **June 25:** (issued jointly with the US Council for Responsible Genetics) *Biotechnology Watchdog Groups Call for a Real Cloning Ban*
- **July 2:** *No Cure for Patents - Biotech Patents Distort and Discourage Innovation and Increase Costs for Dubious Drugs*
- **October 25:** *Scientific Review Rejects the HGDP*
- **November 14:** *US Funding of Human Biodiversity Collections Carries on Despite Contrary Scientific Advice*

Other RAFI Publications 1997

Books and Booklets

- ***Human Nature: Agricultural Biodiversity and Farm-Based Food Security***; a book by Hope Shand and RAFI, published with support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (November 1997)
- ***Confinamientos de la Razon*** - Spanish translation of *Enclosures of the Mind*; a resource book on community knowledge, biodiversity and intellectual property (July 1997)
- ***The Ownership of Life: When Patents and Values Clash***; a briefing book on life patenting for US foundations; co-authored by Hope Shand and Martin Teitel (May 1997)
- ***Development Dialogue 1997: The Parts of Life***; book length edition of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation Journal, on issues relating to plant genetic diversity; by Pat Mooney (for publication February 1998)

Book Chapters and Articles

- *Altered Genes: Bio-engineering Australia's Future*; (Richard Hindmarsh and Geoffrey Lawrence, eds.); chapter entitled ***Enclosing the Biodiversity Commons: Bioprospecting or Biopiracy?*** by Jean Christie (for publication in Australia by Alan and Unwin, May 1998)
- UN Environment Program; *Global Biodiversity Assessment, volume 2* on the cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity (Darrell Posey, ed.); article entitled ***Rural Societies and the Logic of Generosity***; by Jean Christie and Pat Mooney (for publication early 1998)
- World Sustainable Agriculture Association; *For All Generations – Making World Sustainable Agriculture More Sustainable*; book includes a **profile of RAFI's history and current program** (June 1997)
- Society for International Development; *Development vol. 40, no. 2*; ***BioPiracy and the Life Industry***; by Pat Mooney (1997)

Papers and Map

- **Case Studies for Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and the Environment**: 1. *Patenting of Quinoa is Contrary to "Ordre Public" Because it Usurps Indigenous Knowledge and threatens Food Security*; 2. *Case of a Species-wide Patent on Genetically Engineered Soybeans*; 3. *Life Patenting as a Violation of Human Rights and Contrary to "Ordre Public" - Patents on Cloning Mammals* (June 1997)
- ***Are Patents Out of Control? Patents and Ordre Public***; a chart describing patent details for 20 patents world-wide that are contrary to "ordre public", outlining their status in 30 countries; by Edward Hammond (June 1997)

- ***Biopirates Log: biopiracy case studies*** - on Quinoa, Kava, Ayahuasca and Sangre de Drago; published jointly with Cultural Survival Canada, for UN Special Session on Agenda 21 (June 1997)
- ***Custodians of Creation: Cultures and Biodiversity*** - a full-colour wall map depicting the relationships between cultural diversity and biodiversity; produced jointly with Cultural Survival Canada (for publication 1998)

NGO Publications at International Events in 1997 (coordinated by RAFI)

- May 19; Rome, Italy; **Biotalk vol. 5, no. 1** (produced with other civil society organizations at meeting of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)
- May 21; Rome, Italy; **Biotalk vol. 5, no. 2**
- December 3; Rome, Italy; **Biotalk vol. 6, no. 1** (produced at the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)
- December 5; Rome, Italy; **Biotalk vol. 6, no. 2**

RAFI Media Coverage in the North - 1997:

Note: *interviews recorded in italics* aired or appeared in print on the dates indicated. Those in normal type were conducted on the date indicated. Their results are not known.

- Jan. 3; **Scientific American (USA)**; provided information on human tissue collection
- Jan. 3; **Toronto Globe and Mail (Canada)**; provided information on US government disclaiming Hagahai patent
- Jan. 6; **Co-op Radio, Vancouver (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on Canadian legislation regarding life patenting*
- Jan. 6; **Biotechnology Newswatch (USA)**; *NIH forfeits rights to patent on Papua New Guinea cell line*
- Jan. 14; **BBC Television Current Affairs (UK)**; provided information on human patenting
- Jan. 25; **BBC Radio (UK)**; provided information and contacts on plant genetic resources and plant patenting

- Jan. 28; **Videon Cablesystems, Winnipeg (Canada)**; filming of a speech on biopiracy by Pat Mooney, for system-wide broadcast
- January/February; **Multinational Monitor (USA)**; *Pulling the Plug on Life Patents*
- February; **GeneWatch (USA) vol. 10, nos. 4-5**; *Hagahai Cell Line Patent - "There has been no greater affront to fundamental human rights"* by RAFI, and *Adding Insult to Injury - Indigenous people barred from DNA sampling conference*
- February; **Briarpatch Magazine (Canada)**; *The Business of Hunger*
- Feb. 24; **Munich Public Radio (Germany)**; provided information for a feature documentary on human patenting
- Feb. 28; **Impact Medecin Hebdo, no. 355 (France)**; *Chercheurs ou pirates - Chasseurs de genes* (special feature covering human tissue collection, medical ethics, patenting, indigenous peoples' rights etc.)
- March; **New Internationalist (UK)**; *Biological Meltdown: uniformity is the watchword of industrial agriculture*; by Hope Shand
- March; **Global Pesticide Campaigner (USA)**; announcement for RAFI publication *'Enclosures of the Mind'*
- March; **Les Informations Volatiles no. 11 (France)**; announcement for RAFI on-line newsletter *Genotypes*
- March 20; **CBC TV National Magazine (Canada)**; provided information on animal patenting and oncomouse patent
- April; **Les Informations volatiles (France)**; *A lire absolument le RAFI Communiqué*
- April 1; **Antiviral Bulletin (USA)**; *NIH Abandons HTLV-1 Patent*
- April 3; **Dutch Television Channel One (Netherlands)**; feature interview with Pat Mooney
- April 3; **Shift Magazine (Canada)**; interview on human patenting
- April 14; **EFE wire service (Spain)**; *Perocupa registro estadounidense de variedad de quinua boliviana*
- April 20; **BBC Radio (UK)**; *Costing the Earth - Life Patents*; a debate on life patenting including Pat Mooney

- April 22; **Stern (Germany)**; provided information on the International Rice Research Institute
- April 28; **CTV W5 (Canada)**; research interview with Pat Mooney on cloning and biotechnology
- April 28; **Chicago Tribune (USA)**; *The Global Gene Search (part 2) - Genes Offer Sampling of Hope and Despair*
- April 30; **Los Angeles Times (USA)**; *Gene Sleuths Seek Asthma Secrets on Remote Island*
- April-June; **World Views (USA)**; *profile of RAFI and RAFI resources*
- May; **The Geographical Magazine (UK) vol. 69, no. 5**; *Plant Rights*
- May 7; **Stern (Germany)**; provided information on biopiracy
- May 9; **Associated Press (London, UK/international)**; *Institute That Cloned Sheep Seeks Patent, Including for Humans*
- May 9; **CNN website/AP (USA)**; *Institute That Cloned Sheep Seeks Patent, Including for Humans*
- May 9; **Newsday (Nassau and Suffolk edition)**; *Sheep cloners seek animal use patent*
- May 9; **Wired website (USA)**; *AP news item on RAFI among the leading daily stories*
- May 9; **BBC Radio “Good Morning Scotland” (Scotland)**; *interview with Edward Hammond on human cloning patents*
- May 9; **The Herald, Glasgow (Scotland)**; *Church May Join Protest*
- May 9; **Mealey’s Litigation Reports: Biotechnology (USA)**; *Roslin Seeks Patent for Mammal Cloning*
- May 9; **CBC News World - National TV (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on human cloning patents*
- May 9; **CBC Radio Toronto (Canada)**; *interview with Jean Christie on human cloning patents*
- May 9; **CBC Radio Edmonton (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on human cloning patents*
- May 9; **The Ottawa Citizen (Canada)**; *Patent Sought on Human Cloning*

- May 9; **The News and Observer, Raleigh Durham, NC (USA)**; *Institute that cloned sheep wants to secure patent*
- May 9; **The Patriot Ledger, Quincey MA (USA)**; *Creator of lamb seeks world patent. It could be to block human cloning*
- May 9; **Chattanooga Free Press (USA)**; *Cloning Patent Sough*
- May 9; **The Record/News Service Reports (USA)**; *Institute Seeks Patent for Cloning Process*
- May 9; **Chicago Sun-Times (USA)**; *Institute that cloned sheep seeks patent*
- May 9; **The Record/News Service Reports (USA)**; *Institute Seeks Patent for Cloning Process*
- May 10; **London Daily Mail (UK)**; *You can't patent life, greens tell Dolly scientists*
- May 10; **Associated Press (USA/international)**; *You can't patent life, greens tell Dolly scientists*
- May 12; **Medical Industry Today (USA)**; *Cloning Debate Rekindled After Scientists Request Patent*
- May 13; **Discovery Channel - National TV (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on human cloning patents*
- May 14; **Medical Industry Today (USA)**; *WHO Formally Declares Human Cloning Unacceptable*
- May 14; **BBC Farm Show (UK)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on biopiracy*
- May 15; **Nature, vol. 387 (UK)**; *Roslin patents come under the spotlight*
- May 19; **Time International edition (USA/int'l)**; *World Watch - story on sheep cloning*
- May 25; **The Scotsman/Scotland on Sunday (Scotland)**; *Battle ahoy over 'pirates' and bio-booty*
- May 30; **Natural Resources News Service (USA)**; *provided information on life patenting*
- June; **Community Greening Review (USA)**; *Taking Farmers Seriously at Last*; by Jean Christie
- June 12; **Channel Zero video magazine (Canada)**; *interview with Jean Christie on intellectual property trends in the life industries*
- June 22; **Toronto Star (Canada)**; *Gene Hunters taking hits*

- June 22; **Alternatives Journal (Canada)** ; *Companies Covet Genes; ethics and profits compete in the patenting of human genetic materials*
- June 24; **joint press conference, New York (USA)**; with Bolivia's National Association of Quinoa Producers on patenting of Bolivian quinoa; conducted interviews with press from **Canada, Portugal, Spain, UK, USA**
- June 24; **cable TV- New York (USA)**; *hour long interview with Pat Mooney*
- June 25; **WBAI Radio, New York (USA)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on biopiracy and human patenting*
- June 25; **TSF Radio Jornal (Portugal)**; interview with Edward Hammond
- July; **Wired (USA)**; *The Human Genome Controversy*
- July 11; **The Miami Herald (USA)**; interview with Hope Shand on quinoa patents
- July 14; **The Boston Globe (US)** ; *story on Dolly cloning*
- July - October; **CBC TV, The Nature of Things (Canada)**; several research interviews for a feature documentary on biopiracy
- summer; **Native Americas (USA)**; *Biopiracy and Native Knowledge - Indigenous Rights on the Last Frontier*
- August; **New Internationalist (UK)**; *Gene dream* - several citations of RAFI publications
- Aug. 15; **National Public Radio Living Earth (USA)**; *interview with Edward Hammond on bioprospecting*
- Aug. 28; **TVE (UK)**; interview with Pat Mooney for a TVE/IPGRI television series entitled "Wealth or Desolation", on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources
- Sept. 5; **Radio Canada International (Canada)**; *interview with Jean Christie on biopiracy*
- Sept. 18; **German TV, Cologne (Germany)**; provided information on human tissue collections and human patenting
- Sept. 24; **Spanish National Radio (Spain)**; provided information on quinoa patents
- October; **Cornerstones (Sweden/UK)** publication of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation; *The Great Life Robbery - rewriting the laws of life*

- Oct. 1; **freelance journalist (UK)**; provided contacts for a feature on the sugar industry and biodiversity
- Oct. 13 (and repeated); **Canadian Public Affairs Channel - TV (Canada)**; *presentation to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs*; Jean Christie
- Oct. 16; **Canadian Public Affairs Channel - TV (Canada)**; *World Food Day panel presentation*; Jean Christie
- Oct. 20; **Mother Earth News (USA)**; *Sowing Seeds of Diversity*
- Oct. 22; **Associated Press (USA/int'l)**; interview with Pat Mooney on Norman Borlaug, architect of the Green Revolution
- November; **National News Reporter (USA)**; *Genetic Soybeans vs. the Family Farm*
- Nov. 2; **CBC TV - The Nature of Things (Canada)**; interview by David Suzuki with Pat Mooney on biotechnology and biopiracy, for a five part series
- Nov. 6; **World Watch (USA)**; provided information on neem patents and patent decisions in European Patent Office
- Nov. 9; **Salt Lake Tribune (USA)**; *Yellowstone Park's Deal: Some Call it Biopiracy*
- Nov. 12; **The Arizona Republic (USA)**; *Bioprospecting Deal Favours Firms: Park Microbes May be Profitable*
- Nov. 14; **Molecular Medicine Today (USA)**; provided information on human patenting and related issues
- Nov. 17; **Ottawa Citizen/Southam (Canada)**; *Harvard seeks court approval to patent 'life'*
- Nov. 17; **Montreal Gazette/Southam (Canada)**; *Harvard seeks court approval to patent 'life'*
- Nov. 17; **CBC Newsworld (Canada)**; research interview on Harvard oncomouse patent appeal
- Nov. 19; **Discovery Channel (Canada)**; interview with Jean Christie on Canadian onco-mouse patent appeal
- Nov. 21; **The Dallas Morning News (USA)**; *Parks biotech deal angers some; microbes in Yellowstone's hot springs belong to public, not firms, critics say*

- Nov. 21; **St Louis Post Dispatch (USA)**; *Yellowstone Holds Biotech Gold, and Prospectors are Ready to Mine It; Public Concern Centers on Who Owns Microbes and Who Will Profit*
- Nov. 26; **press release Biodiversity Convention meeting (Madrid, Spain)**; *EU Life Patents Threaten Biodiversity Convention*; issued by GAIA Foundation and GRAIN, supported by 7 governments and 17 civil society organizations, including RAFI
- Nov. 27; **Toronto Globe and Mail (Canada)**; *A tiny island yields a key to asthma*
- December; **GeneWatch vol. 10, no. 6 (USA)**; *CRG and RAFI Call for Stronger Cloning Ban*
- Dec. 11; **WOL Radio Washington (USA)**; provided information on human patent claims by US government
- Dec. 11; **Radio, Berkely, Calif. (USA)**; *interview with Hope Shand on life patenting*
- Dec. 22; **CM Productions - freelance (USA)**; provided information on biopiracy for a proposed film series on biopiracy
- 1997; **Geneflow (int'l)**; *Drug companies make bid for botanic gardens*

total: 99 contacts, 10 countries, 3 international news services

RAFI Media Coverage in the South - 1997

- Feb. 20; **Business Standard, New Delhi (India)**; *Hoechst patents extracts from herb used in ayurveda*
- March 17; **El Diario, La Paz (Bolivia)**; *Gobierno debe revertir patente norteamericano de quinua*
- April 1; **La Paz (Bolivia)**; television filming of presentation by Pat Mooney on biopiracy and quinoa patent; newspaper interview with Pat Mooney
- April 3; **Cajamarca (Bolivia)**; television, radio and newspaper interviews on genetic resource conservation, quinoa patent etc; Pat Mooney
- April 10; **Inter Press Service (int'l)**; *Africa Loses Scientist and Genetic Rights Campaigner*
- April 14; **EFE wire service (Spain, int'l)/Los Tiempos, La Paz (Bolivia)**; *Perocupa registro estadounidense de variedad de quinua*
- April - June; **Honey Bee (India)**; *'Biopiracy' vis-a-vis Gene Fund: A Novel Experiment*

- June; **Semillas en la Economía Campesina (Colombia)**; *Nuevos interrogantes acerca del manejo e intercambio de tejido humano, en el Instituto Nacional de Salud de los Estados Unidos (NIH); RAFI*
- July; **Pesticide Monitor vol. 6, no. 2 - Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia/int'l)**; *review of 'Enclosures of the Mind'*
- July 3; **Bolivian Times (Bolivia)** *Will Quinoa Be US-Controlled?*
- July 13; **Sunday Mid-day (India)**; *They're taking our DNA - Global gene trade targets Indian communities*
- July 17; **Ecologista (Brazil)**; *interview on US human patenting policy*
- August; **Honey Bee (India)**; *A Novel Experiment in Benefit Sharing*
- August; **Third World Resurgence (Malaysia/int'l)**; *Biotech patents distort, discourage innovation and increase costs for dubious drugs*
- Aug. 19; **The Independent (Dakha, Bangladesh)**; *Donors always persist in their 'prescription' says Motia*
- Aug. 19; **The Daily Star (Dakha, Bangladesh)**; *Govt, donors locked in constant argument*
- Aug. 22; **Tangail (Bangladesh)**; *several interviews with Jean Christie, by Bangladesh dailies*
- Aug. 24; **The Financial Express (Dakha, Bangladesh)**; *'New Freedom Movement' against fresh 'colonisation' bid stressed*
- Aug. 24; **(Dakha, Bangladesh)**; *'Resist colonisation of agriculture'*
- Oct. 3; **The Daily Star weekly magazine (Dakha, Bangladesh)**; *The Plundering of Our Genetic Resources (cover story)*
- Oct. 14; **Merida daily paper (Mexico)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on biopiracy*
- Oct. 17; **Dhaka Courier (Bangladesh)**; *IPR will benefit corporations in the North*
- Oct. 17; **Dhaka Courier (Bangladesh)**; *IPR will benefit the corporations in the North - interview with Jean Christie on biotechnology and biopiracy*
- Oct. 21; **O Globo TV (Brazil)**; *filmed interview in Washington with Edward Hammond, on biopiracy in Latin America*
- November; **Semillas en la economía campesina (Colombia)**; *Las patentes de algodón*

- November; **Earth Touch (Bangladesh)**; *interview with Jean Christie on biotechnology and biopiracy etc* **total: 26 contacts in 7 countries**

RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings - 1997

- Jan. 29; University of **Winnipeg (Canada)**; speech on “ETC” - Erosions, Technology and Corporate Concentration; by Pat Mooney
- March 4; **Panglao, Bohol (Philippines)**; NGO seminar presentation by Pat Mooney on changes in the life industry
- March 5; **Panglao, Bohol (Philippines)**; NGO seminar presentation by Hope Shand on “Bioserfdom”, and technological changes in agriculture
- March 6; **Tagbilaran, Bohol (Philippines)**; SEARICE Seminar for government and NGO representatives; two presentations by Pat Mooney, on farmers’ rights and biopiracy
- March 7; **Manila (Philippines)**; SEARICE seminar for government and NGO representatives on Filipino Executive Order 247, on access to biodiversity and benefits sharing; presentation on biopiracy
- March 20; **Ames, Iowa (USA)**; presentation to Iowa State University plant breeders entitled “The International Debate over Biodiversity and Farmers’ Rights: Equity or Bioserfdom for the 21st Century?”; by Hope Shand
- March 24-25; **Santa Cruz (Bolivia)**; seminar on Agricultural Biodiversity, organized by Canadian Lutheran World Relief for 45 NGO representatives and farmers; four theme presentations by Pat Mooney
- March 27; **La Paz (Bolivia)**; Taller Agricultura Frente a la Biotecnologia (Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture and Biotechnology) organized by NGO CESA, and attended by 20 representatives from agricultural and trade unions, and cooperatives; presentation by Pat Mooney
- March 27; **La Paz (Bolivia)**; special briefing and strategy meeting between farm leaders, quinoa growers and breeders and inter-departmental government task force, on quinoa

patent; attended by representatives from four government departments; resource person Pat Mooney

- April 1; **Cusco (Peru)**; presentation at the Agricultural University (Universidad Nacional de San Antonio del Cusco) on patents and biopiracy, organized by the university and CIED (Centro de Investigacion Educacion y Desarrollo) and attended by about 50 NGO representatives and academics; Pat Mooney
- April 3; **Cajamarca (Peru)**; formal welcome of Pat Mooney by the mayor, and presentation of awards to five farmers, for the conservation of genetic resources by Pat Mooney
- April 3; **Cajamarca (Peru)**; NGO seminar with Pat Mooney on Biodiversity following the Earth Summit, at Escuela Rural Andina; organized by CIED and attended by about 60 people
- April 4; **Cajamarca (Peru)**; introductory meeting at the Agricultural University with the Dean of Agriculture and academic staff; speech on Patents and Biopiracy to agriculture lecturers, graduate students and regional government officials; Pat Mooney
- April 7; **Lima (Peru)**; meeting with Director General and staff at the International Potato Centre to discuss CGIAR NGO relations, RAFI program etc; Pat Mooney
- April 7; **Lima (Peru)**; talk on Patents and Biopiracy at the University, organized by NGO CIED; Pat Mooney
- April 15-20; United Nations, **New York (USA)**; informal briefing of delegates to UN Commission on Sustainable Development on biopiracy, human patents, and World Court Strategy; Jean Christie
- May 12-14; **Geneva (Switzerland)**; World Health Assembly; informal briefing of delegates on human cloning patent; Edward Hammond
- May 12,14; **Paris (France)**; UNESCO Bioethics Committee; briefing of committee members on cloning patents
- May 17-21; **Rome (Italy)**; FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; participation by Pat Mooney and Edward Hammond, and publication of *BioTalk*
- June 4-6; **Washington (USA)**; Crop Sciences Society of America meeting on Intellectual Property Rights; workshop participation and follow-up; Hope Shand

- June 7,8; **Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA)**; North American Indigenous Peoples meeting on the Human Genome Diversity Project; presentation on human patenting; Edward Hammond
- June 22-23; **New York (USA)**; presentation of three case studies - on quinoa, transgenic soybean and human cloning patents - to the Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and the Environment; presentation/participation by three RAFI staff, with ANAPQUI, the National Association of Quinoa Producers from Bolivia
- June 25; **Washington (USA)**; American Association for the Advancement of Science Forum on Cloning; joint press release and participation by Hope Shand, with the US Council for Responsible Genetics
- June 26; **New York (USA)**; seminar on Patents and Biological Diversity, organized by a coalition of four Norwegian NGOs, parallel to the UN General Assembly on Agenda 21; presentation by Edward Hammond
- June 26; **New York/European Parliament (USA/Belgium)**; *From Civil Society Organisations Participating in the UN General Assembly Special Session, Rio +5*; an open letter to members of the European Parliament opposing passage of the European Parliament's Directive on Biotechnological Inventions; signed by 60 organizations, including RAFI
- July; **European Parliament (Belgium)**; RAFI's *Are Patents out of Control?* sent to all members of the European Parliament
- Aug. 18-22; **Bishnupur, Tangail (Bangladesh)**; Meeting of the South Asian Network of Food, Ecology and Culture; presentations at the opening public session, and on biopiracy, GATT TRIPS and the Biodiversity Convention; Jean Christie
- Aug. 18-22; **Budapest (Hungary)**; Eighth European Congress on Biotechnology: Biotechnology and Biodiversity in the Age of Genome Analysis; presentation on intellectual property rights; Pat Mooney
- Aug. 23; **Dakha (Bangladesh)**; seminar for scientists entitled "Biopiracy, Ecology and Culture" organized by the South Asian Network on Food, Ecology and Culture; presentation on biodiversity, biopiracy and GATT TRIPS; Jean Christie

- Oct. 9; **Ottawa (Canada)**; presentation to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, on follow-up to the World Food Summit, filmed for repeated broadcast on Canadian Public Affairs Channel; Jean Christie
- Oct. 14; **Merida (Mexico)**; Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan; speech on the politics of Plant Genetic Resources and intellectual property; Pat Mooney
- Oct. 16-17; **Ottawa (Canada)**; International Development Research Centre - participation in an international panel to review the Centre's three year programme on the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; Jean Christie
- Oct. 17; **Merida (Mexico)**; Second International Congress on Ethnobiology; presentation on access to agricultural germplasm and Farmers' Rights; Pat Mooney
- Oct. 30; **New Haven, Connecticut (USA)**; presentation on agriculture and biotechnology, to Yale University Program in Agrarian Studies - Seminar; by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 4; **Ottawa (Canada)**; CIDA Annual Consultation with NGOs, Workshop on Food Security - Follow-up to the World Food Summit; panelist Jean Christie
- Nov. 6; **Ames, Iowa (USA)**; University of Iowa, Institute on World Affairs; presentation on the ownership of life, by Pat Mooney
- Nov. 7-8; **Toronto (Canada)**; Public Teach-in, and National Roundtable on "Challenging Corporate Rule"; convenor and resource person for workshop on Biopiracy; Jean Christie
- Nov. 14; **University Park, Pennsylvania (USA)**; conference on Crop Biodiversity and Seed Saving Conference, organized by Penn State University and Pennsylvania Farm Stewardship Association; keynote address on biopiracy , the life industries and farmers' rights by Hope Shand; workshop on the life industries by Hope Shand
- Nov. 20; **Vancouver (Canada)**; NGO Parallel Conference to APEC, Sustainability Issues Forum ; Agricultural Workshop; chaired by Jean Christie
- Nov. 23 -28; **Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)**; participation in three year evaluation of the Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Program; Pat Mooney

- Nov. 17-22; **Madrid (Spain)**; participation in WATU/Accion Indigena indigenous peoples' forum; day long briefing for Spanish NGOs by Edward Hammond
- Nov. 24-28 ; **Madrid (Spain)**; participation in Convention on Biological Diversity inter-sessional meeting on clause 8j - on indigenous knowledge; Edward Hammond
- Dec. 1-5; **Rome (Italy)**; FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; attendance and publication of *BioTalk* newsletter; Edward Hammond and Pat Mooney
- Dec. 9; **San Francisco, California (USA)**; briefing of San Francisco Bay activists on life patenting; Hope Shand
- Dec. 9-13; **Chiangmai (Thailand)**; participation in a planning workshop for a SE Asian program on biopiracy; Edward Hammond

total: 45 speaking engagements in 13 countries

RAFI Materials on the Internet

All RAFI materials, including research publications, *Annual Reports*, and *Financial Statements* are available on RAFI's website, which was created and is managed in-house by Edward Hammond. A concerted effort to promote the site paid off during 1997. Between March and December, for instance, website use more than doubled. By the end of the year, RAFI's internet server was delivering RAFI publications at the rate of about 50,000 worldwide web pages annually, to more than 7,000 internet "surfers" in about 80 countries. RAFI disseminates new and timely articles via an online newsletter called *Genotypes*, and operates a "listserver" to distribute these information updates to 400 electronic mail users on a regular basis. This 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.

<http://www.rafi.ca>