



## Seminar 1

### **Nanotech and other Emerging Technologies Implications for the Poor and for Dissent**

*(including Biotech's Generation 3, Neurosciences, and the New Genomics Agenda)*

### **2 Seminars on Nanotechnology**

#### **Seminar A:**

**Date: Friday, August 30**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Location: NASREC**

**Room: Expo Hall 5, Rm. 11**

#### **Seminar B:**

**Date: Friday, August 30**

**Time: 3:00 PM**

**Location: St. Stithian's College**

ETC Group (formerly RAFI) offers a seminar on nanotechnology and other emerging technologies that will have a profound impact on the poor and on democracy in the immediate future. **Nanotechnology refers to a spectrum of new technologies that operate at the nanoscale (one billionth of a meter) – that is, the manipulation of atoms and molecules to create new products.** Nanotechnology works with the elements in the Periodic Table that are the building blocks of DNA and every other material and product in the world. The power of nanotechnology eclipses genetic engineering because it involves *all* matter – both living and non-living. Atomic construction technologies have the power to radically change every sector of the world economy and the definition of life itself.

ETC Group is a member of the CBDG (Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme [www.cbdcprogram.org](http://www.cbdcprogram.org)).



## Seminar 2

# Stop the “Stockholm Syndrome”! Free Civil Society from UN Summits!

**Stockholm – 1972; Rio – 1992; Johannesburg – 2002 ...  
No more Summits. We have more effective options!**

**Time: To Be Announced**

**Date:**

**Location:**

**Room:**

ETC Group (formerly RAFI) offers a workshop/discussion proposing no more UN Summits unless and until governments make prior measurable and fully accountable commitments. If governments hold a party and civil society doesn't RSVP, there'll be no party.

But, then what do we do? Can social movements and other civil society organizations work together to create a politically-effective global/local “pincer” movement that can force national policy makers and international institutions to adopt policies and programs for a truly sustainable world? Can we take the lessons learned in Monterey, in Rome, and in Johannesburg this year to construct strategies that let us use our global knowledge and political acumen in conjunction with our national knowledge and political strength to forge the legislation, regulations, and institutional changes needed? It's time to restructure our own relationships within civil society and to fundamentally change the way we relate to the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies.

The workshop could lead to specific recommendations for this summit and for political action during the next World Social Forum in Brazil. Come with your own thoughts and proposals!

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## Seminar 3

# The Global Conservation Trust

**Making Plant Genetic Resources safe forever  
– or losing control forever?**

**FAO and the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) are creating an endowed foundation to provide “permanent” support for major plant genetic resource collections in gene banks. The Global Conservation Trust is a “public/private partnership” including governments, corporations, and foundations. Done right, it could be a wonderful supplement to the new International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Done wrong, we could lose control of the world’s most important genetic resources forever.**

### **2 Seminars on the Global Conservation Trust**

#### **Seminar A:**

**Date: Wednesday, Aug. 28**

**Time: 6 PM**

**Location: St. Stithian's College**

#### **Seminar B:**

**Date: Thursday, Aug. 29**

**Time: 3 PM**

**Location: NASREC, Expo Hall, Rm. 11**

ETC Group (formerly RAFI) offers a discussion with the Trust’s organizers and with concerned governments to consider the problem/potential of endowed germplasm collections and to examine the Trust’s relationship to the FAO Treaty, to farmers’ organizations, and to governments.

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## Seminar 4

# The Community Biodiversity Development and Conservation Programme

**More than ten years ago, civil society activists in the South along with advocacy and scientific groups in the North got together for an experiment in community biodiversity conservation and development. Here's what we have learned...**

**Date: Wednesday, August 28**

**Time: 3 PM**

**Location: St. Stithian's College**

Partners in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mali, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe began discussions that led to the creation of the CBDC in 1991. Now in its second phase, the program has had a remarkable wealth of experience concerning community-level strategies that lead to the conservation and the development of agricultural biodiversity. Half of the learning experience, over the years, has been mechanisms by which scientists and communities can work together in an environment of mutual respect across different continents both South and North. In the process, the program has developed a protocol that governs its relationships and the way it presents its results. Along the way, we have had both successes and failure. This seminar – presented by members of the program in different countries – will share the results of a decade of progress, mistakes, and international cooperation. Come with your own thoughts and proposals!

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## Seminar 5

# The Treaty Initiative to Share the Genetic Commons

**Can we win the “No Patents on Life” Campaign, strengthen Community Rights, and safeguard sovereignty and still make certain that genetic resources are exchanged by and among those who have always shared so freely?**

**Time: To Be Announced**

**Date:**

**Location:**

**Room:**

For two years now, hundreds of civil society organizations and social movements have been drafting and re-drafting a “Treaty to Share the Genetic Commons” (working title only). The Treaty Initiative has stirred an extraordinary and constructive debate. We all agree that there should be no patents on life. But, how can we continue our 12,000 year-old tradition of freely-sharing seeds and medicines without being ripped-off by biopirates, weakening Community Rights, or further eroding national sovereignty?

If communities and movements can reach agreement on the right language (adapted to different cultures, languages and regional histories) then we could be well on our way to a Treaty we can fight for with our governments and intergovernmental organizations.

This workshop could lead to specific recommendations for this summit and for the ever-changing Treaty text. Come with your own questions, thoughts and proposals!

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