A Conservative Measure of RAfi’s Impact:
RAFI Publications, Media Coverage, and Presentations
1993 and 1994

It is very difficult to monitor the media coverage generated by RAFI staff and publications. It is impossible to measure the impact of such coverage. Nonetheless, media coverage is one crude measure of RAFI’s outreach. Below are lists of RAFI Communiques, Press Releases, and RAFI Occasional Papers issued in 1993 and 1994. These are followed by lists of published articles and other media coverage which we have become aware of, which were either produced by RAFI staff or which draw heavily on RAFI information. Finally, we present a summary of speaking engagements and other activities with a multiplier effect, where RAFI’s message was disseminated to a significant national or international audience.

RAFI Communiques 1993 and 1994:

* December 1994: Communique Updates
* November 1994: Bioprospecting/Biopiracy And Indigenous Peoples
* May/June 1994: "Gene Boutiques" Stake Claim to Human Genome*
* March/April 1994: "Species" Patent on Transgenic Soybeans Granted to Transnational Chemical Giant - W.R. Grace*
* January/February, 1994: The Patenting of Human Genetic Material*
* December, 1993: Communique Updates
* November, 1993: Bio-Piracy: The Story of Natural Coloured Cottons of the Americas*
* July/August 1993: Control of Cotton: The Patenting of Transgenic Cotton*
* June, 1993: Biotechnology Company will sell Bio-engineered Human Proteins to Infant Formula Manufacturers
* May, 1993: Patents, Indigenous Peoples, and Human Genetic Diversity*

* Available in Spanish
RAFI News Releases:

* October 25, 1993: Indigenous People Protest U.S. Secretary of Commerce Patent Claim on Guaymi Indian Cell Line


* March 28, 1994: Out of Control: Second "Species patent" Granted on Major Crop - This Time in Europe; Industry, Governments Growing Reckless in Bid to Monopolize Life

* March 30, 1994: Food Patent Challenged

* June 20, 1994: World Bank Coup Over Genetic Resources: Moves to Thwart First Steps Towards Intergovernmental Authority


* July 23, 1994: Loud No to World Gene Bank - Governments and Non-governmental Organizations Rebuff Bank’s Efforts to Capture Agricultural Biodiversity


RAFI Occasional Papers:

* March 1994; Vol. 1, no. 1: The Benefits of Biodiversity: 100+ Examples of the Contribution by Indigenous and Rural Communities in the South to Development in the North

* July 1994; Vol. 1, no. 2: Microbial BioPiracy: An Initial Analysis of Microbial Genetic Resources Originating in the South, and Held in the North

* October 1994; Vol. 1, no. 3: Declaring the Benefits: The North’s Annual Profit from International Agricultural Research is in the Range of $U.S. 4-5 Billion. It’s time for an accounting

* November 1994; Vol. 1, no. 4: COPs... and Robbers - Transfer-Sourcing Indigenous Knowledge: Pirating Medicinal Plants (Published with the Indigenous Peoples’ Biodiversity Network)


   Available for U.S.$10; Cdn$12; or Australian $12 per issue
Other Publications:


* **People, Plants, and Patents: The impact of intellectual property on trade, plant biodiversity, and rural society** (report of the Crucible Group); IDRC, 1994; Pat Mooney was contributing author and member of editorial committee. Translated into French and Spanish.


* 3 conference papers: **Intellectual Property - Fora and Focus for the Evolving Debate; An Overview of Bio-Piracy; and An Overview of Bioprospecting**, presented to the Regional Meeting on Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples; Santa Cruz, Bolivia; September 1994.


RAFI Media Coverage in the North:

* winter/spring 1993; **Culture and Agriculture**, nos. 45-46; **The Conflict Between Farmers' Rights and Breeders' Rights at Home and Abroad** by Hope Shand
* 1993; **Diversity**, vol. 9, no. 3; **A Small Group with a Big Agenda Influences Global Biodiversity: RAFI**
* February 1993; **Seedling**, vol. 10, no. 11; **A Decade in Review** (interview with Pat Mooney); and **Cotton has been Patented**
* March 1993; **Bio/Technology**, (10th anniversary issue); guest editorial **Ag Bio and Third World Development** by Hope Shand
* April 1993; **Review of European Community and Environmental Law, Genetic Resources in the International Commons**, by Pat Mooney
* April 1993; **Echoes**, (magazine of the World Council of Churches); **Bio-Pirates**, by Pat Mooney
* September 27, 1993; **Washington Post, Splicing Genes, Slicing Exports? U.S. Firms' Bio-Engineered Tropical Plants May Threaten Third World Exports**
* fall 1993; **Earth Island Journal, Patenting Indigenous People**
* October 15, 1993; U.S. TV **satellite broadcast** for World Food Day, from Washington DC to all countries in the western hemisphere; **Seeds of Conflict**, featured Hope Shand as panelist
* October 15, 1993; editorial prepared for **North Carolina Editorial Forum, Biodiversity and World Food Day** by Hope Shand, published in North Carolina newspapers and radio spots
* October 16, 1993; **The Irish Times**, Dublin; **Now no life form is safe from the patent lawyer**
* October 28, 1993; **Maori Congress**, Aotearoa/New Zealand; press release **Maori join in international indigenous peoples' protest against U.S. government's patent claim on an indigenous woman's (Guaymi, Panama) cell line**; reportedly covered by various media
* November 1993; Biotech Reporter, news reports on cotton patent and Guaymi human patent protest
* November 1993; Global Pesticide Campaigner, Control of Cotton: The Patenting of Transgenic Cotton
* November 11, 1993; Canberra Times, Gene gathering project 'dangerous, unethical'
* December 1993; Biotechnology Monitor, no. 17; guest editorial A Landmark Year for Biodiversity or Biopiracy by Hope Shand
* December 1993; Biotechnology Monitor, no. 17; RAFA After 15 Years
* December 1993; interview with U.S. National Public Radio on Agracetus cotton patent; Hope Shand
* December 1993; interview with St. Louis Post Dispatch on Plant Variety Protection Act amendments; Hope Shand
* 1994; Diversity, vol. 10, no.3; Congressional Passage of New PVP Law a Triumph for seed Industry
* 1994; Diversity, vol. 10, no.4; Consultative Group Signs Landmark Agreement to Place CGIAR Genebanks Under FAO Trusteeship; Study Released by UNDP Charges Compensation to Developing Countries is Inadequate, Supreme Court Hears Arguments on Asgrow v. Winterboer Case.
* January 1994; Ecology and Farming, Biodiversity in Agriculture: Some Policy Issues
* January 1994; Genewatch, vol. 9, nos 3-4; Patent Claim Withdrawn on Guaymi Indian Cell Line (reprint of RAFI press release)
* January 24, 1994; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress; press release: The 'Vampire Project'
* January 24, 1994; The Adelaide Advertiser, 'Vampire' tests anger Aborigines
* January 25, 1994; The Age, (Melbourne); Anger over plans to take hair, blood of blacks
* January 25, 1994; The Australian, Tickner warns over Aboriginal gene sampling
* January 25, 1994; Canberra Times, 'Vampire' gene bank strikes Aboriginal flak
* January 25, 1994; Centrallian Advocate, Aborigines hit out at American vampire project
* February 1994; World Business, (Canada); Profiteering from the Wisdom of the South
* February 7, 1994; Time, (Australia); Rumour, Bloody Rumour: Truth can be the first casualty when scientists are unable or reluctant to explain what they are doing
* February 19, 1994; New Scientist, Rich pickings for cotton's pioneers
* March 1994; Scientific American, King Cotton
* March 20, 1994; Toronto Star, Global Indigestion: The world is eating away at itself (2 page feature on agricultural genetic erosion)
* March 1994, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) "Ideas"; two-part national radio documentary on Biotechnology, featuring Hope Shand
* April 1994; Australian Broadcasting Corporation (national radio); "Triple J" feature on the Human Genome Diversity Project
* April 1994; Search, (Australian science magazine) vol. 25, no. 3; The Human Genome Diversity Project - Facts versus Fiction and The Vampire Project - An Aboriginal Perspective on Genome Diversity Research
* autumn 1994; The Seed Savers' Network Bulletin, no. 16; (Australia) "Genetic Engineering" feature includes Genetically Modified Plants/Organisms, Neem Plant Extracts Patented, and Patenting Human Cells - all quoted from RAFl materials
* May 1994; CBC Sunday Morning; two-part national radio feature on human patenting, one focusing on RAFl's opposition to it
* May 1, 1994; Winnipeg Free Press, Whose life is it anyway? Group foils bid to stake patent claim on human cells
* June 1994; Multinational Monitor, "Patenting the Planet", Extracting Human Resources, and Patenting Human Life - Who Draws the Line? by Hope Shand
* summer 1994; The Boycott Quarterly, Another Patent Update: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Patents
* June 21, 1994; Financial Times,(London); World Bank accused of attempting raid on gene reserves
* July 2, 1994; New Scientist, Battle for the world's seed banks; and Seeds of Discontent
* July 5, 1994; Financial Times, (London); Free access to plant genetic resources assured
* July 10, 1994; Los Angeles Times Magazine, Against the Grain - Multinational corporations peddling patented seeds and chemical pesticides are poised to revolutionize India's ancient agricultural system. But at what cost?
* July 1994; Bio/technology, vol. 12; Agracetus' cotton patent draws opposition
* July 1994; The Ram's Horn, no. 117; World Bank Effort to Privatize Genetic Resources Rebuffed
* July 1994; Seedling, vol. 11, no. 2 (GRAIN); Towards a World Gene Bank?
* July 20, 1994; Green Left News, (Australia); World Bank 'attempting to raid gene reserves'
* July/August 1994; Multinational Monitor, Gene Wars
* August, 1994; Journal of the Social Studies of Medicine, UK; Editorial, Interrogating the Human Genome Diversity Project
* September 3, 1994; Toronto Globe and Mail, Mouse patent produces traps: the oversight of a genetically altered life form raises ethical and social issues
* September/November 1994; Permaculture International Journal (Australia); World 'Species' Patent Challenged
* September 1994, Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor, vol 2, no. 2 (The Netherlands); Indigenous seed practices for sustainable agriculture
* October, 1994; Seedling, vol. 11, no.3, U.S. Congress Restricts Farmers' Rights
* October 25, 1994; UNDP Press release; Bio-Piracy cheats developing countries and their indigenous peoples of $5.4 billion a year in plant and knowledge royalties, says study conducted for UNDP
* October 25, 1994; Inter Press: Rich nations reap billions from research centres
* October 28, 1994; Financial Times; 'Bio-piracy' costs Third World $5.4bn a year
* October 27, 1994; Reuter; Biopiracy Costs Developing World $U.S. 5 billion
* October 28, 1994; The Guardian; UN attacks biopiracy
* November, 1994; Permaculture International Journal; World 'Species' Patents Challenged
* November 1994; Alternatives Vol. 21, No. 1 (Canada); Broad patents on basic crops cause alarm
* November 1994, Discover; End of the Rainbow: The leaders of the Human Genome Diversity Project wanted to find a way to celebrate and preserve our genetic differences. Now they're being called racists
* November 4, 1994; Science, Vol. 266; Genetic Diversity Project Tries Again
* November 5, 1994; New Scientist; UN takes control of seed banks
* November 8, 1994; Det Fri Aktuelt; Bio-piraterne Har Frit Spil
* November 11, 1994; ABC Radio National (Australia); Business Weekly; 6 minute interview on UNDP study and biopiracy, Jean Christie
* November 24, 1994; IT Journaa, (Netherlands), De Absurditeit Van Patenten Op Leven
* November 25, 1994; Wall Street Journal; W.R. Grace Sprouts New Controversy - firm's Attempt to Patent Gene-Injected Soybeans is Worrying Researchers
* November 28, 1994; Star-Ledger; Plant Geneticists stand to harvest exclusive rights on food crops
* November/December, 1994; The Ecologist, vol.24, no.6, Soya Patent Challenged in Europe
* December 1994; Biotech Reporter; Monsanto, RAFI Oppose European Soybean Patent
* December 1994; Biotechnology & Development Monitor; Patents, genes and butterflies; and Agracetus: Patenting all transgenic cotton.
* December 1994; Forum; (Germany) Der Ikarus-Effekt, Hope Shand
* December 1994; The Gene Exchange; Patent Office Reverses Decision on Species-Wide Patent
* December 1994; Multinational Monitor; Fighting the Seed Monopoly
* December 1, 1994; ABC Radio (Melbourne); interview on soybean patent challenge, Jean Christie
* December 1, 1994; ABC Radio (Rural Broadcast, Sydney); news story on soybean patent challenge
* December 1, 1994; ABC Radio National (The World Today); interview on soybean patent challenge, Jean Christie
* December 1, 1994; Financial Times; Soybean patent breeds discontent
* December 1, 1994; New York Times; Grace Unit is Opposed on Biotech Soybean Patent
* December 2, 1994; Public Radio News (Melbourne, to 70 stations), interview on soybean patent challenge, Jean Christie
* December 15, 1994; interview with Japan Broadcasting Corporation NHI-TV Tokyo, for a feature documentary on biotechnology and intellectual property rights, Hope Shand

RAFI Media Coverage in the South:

* June 1993; Binndang, (publication of the Centre for Development Programs in the Cordillera), Philippines; Patents, Indigenous Peoples, and Human Genetic Diversity
* February 11, 1994; Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group press release; Indian Biodiversity being patented abroad
* February 18, 1994; Calcutta Business Standard, news item on Indian government’s withdrawal of Agracetus cotton patent
* March 1994; Third World Network Features, Now Patents on Cotton, Too, by Hope Shand (TWN circulates RAFI press releases and Communiques to about 100 Indian dailies, which frequently carry them, according to TWN)
* March 21, 1994; Panama daily, Caso de la patente Guaymi
* April 1994; African Farmer, Corporate Patents or Global Piracy
* April 26, 1994; Pioneer (India), Monopoly power through seed patents
* April 27, 1994; Indian Express, Soybean patent raises doubts about GATT pact
* April 28, 1994; Barbados Broadcasting Corporation; interview with Hope Shand on the importance of Biodiversity
* May 9, 1994; Calcutta Business Standard, Rice researchers protest U.S. claim to species patent
* May 9, 1994; Bombay/New Delhi/London - Asian Age, U.S. company claims patent rights on Transgenic rice
* May 16, 1994; The Economic Times, New Delhi; Patents/Biopiracy/Winner Takes it All, feature article on African Soapberry, by Pat Mooney
* May 26, 1994; Today, (Philippines); Food Security: Patent Pending
* June 1994; African Diversity, Africa's Biomaterial Held in ATCC - Who Benefits From It?
* June 1994; Alternativas - Cuadernos de Agroecologia - Biodiversidade, (As-PTA, Brazil); As porcoes esquecidas, by Pat Mooney
* June 5, 1994; O Globo, Brazil; Microorganismos do Brasil sao patenteados nos EUA and Pais pode pagar pelo uso de especie nativa
* June 21, 1994; Kenyan national television report; featuring Pat Mooney and NGO opposition to World Bank at Biodiversity Convention meeting in Nairobi
* June 23, 1994; Times of India, Government in a fix over cottonseed patent revocation
* June 29, 1994; The National (daily newspaper in Papua New Guinea); story on patent claims for cell lines of people from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
* July 2, 1994; The Economic Times New Delhi, Missing out on green gains and Biopiracy: Commercially Useful Biomaterials From India Deposited in U.S.
* July 29, 1994; Frontline (national Indian magazine); The gene piracy (three-page interview with Pat Mooney), The cotton patent, and Human Genome Diversity Project: Partial list of targeted indigenous communities in India
* August, 1994; Third World Resurgence, issue 48 (special issue entitled "Fighting for Biodiversity"); Protests against World Bank's attempted take-over of gene banks; World Bank's attempted coup over genetic resources; Why the ex-situ collections are so crucial; 'Gene Boutiques' lay claim to human genome
* August 10, 1994; South-North Development Monitor, South advised not to hurry on TRIPS
* August 25, 1994; Diario da Assembleia (Estado do Rio Grande do Sul), Brazil; Audiencia publica condena Projeto Genoma
* September 1-15, 1994; Third World Economics, South advised not to hurry on TRIPS
* November 24, 1994; Claridad; Genes Humanos a la venta
* ANDE (Costa Rica); Aprovechando la Diversidad; Una nota sobre la diversidad biologica y el conocimiento indigena
* October 1994, African Diversity, Contributions made by Africa to the North (table).

RAFI Media Initiatives in Progress:

* RAFI has provided information to film-makers from Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK on various topics
* RAFI has provided information on human patenting to UK Channel 4's Equinox Series, for a feature documentary
* RAFI has provided material on life patenting to researchers from CBC TV's Fifth Estate
* RAFI has provided an interview and materials to Australia's (national) ABC radio Background Briefing
* RAFI has provided material to the BBC for a series entitled "Costing the Earth", on agricultural diversity and intellectual property rights
* RAFI has provided information on human patenting to a journalist from Science Magazine
* RAFI has provided information on human patenting to Native Monthly Reader (USA)
* RAFI has provided information on human patenting to the Miami Herald
* Hope Shand has written an article for publication in Our Common Future, Norway
* RAFI has provided information to Omni magazine on Human Genome Diversity Project

RAFI Speaking Engagements, Consultancies, Presentations, Workshops, and Briefings:

* January 15, 1993; Environment Canada, Ottawa, Canada; speech entitled Unconventional Wisdom; Pat Mooney
* February 22, 1993; Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Canberra, Australia; Seminar on Biotechnology and the Third World; Erna Bennett and Jean Christie
* February 24, 1993; Australian Conservation Foundation, Melbourne, Australia; Seminar on Agricultural Genetic Conservation and Biotechnology; Erna Bennett and Jean Christie
* May 1993; Biotechnology Forum of Zimbabwe Conference; Harare, Zimbabwe; paper entitled Implications of Biotechnology for the South: Some Notes of Caution; by Jean Christie
* June 1993; First International Conference on the Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Whakatane, Aotearoa/New Zealand; RAFI package of material on Human Genome Diversity Project and human patenting presented to all participants
* June 18, 1993; UN Conference on Human Rights, Vienna; paper entitled Indigenous Peoples: Human Rights and Sustainable Development; Hope Shand (consultant to UN Development Programme)
* June 29, 1993; Primer Seminario Internacional de Agronegocios (First International Seminar on Agribusiness) sponsored by INTEGRER; Monterrey, Mexico; speech entitled El Germoplasma como Producto: Un Ciclo Generador de Riqueza; Hope Shand
* July 3, 1993; Ecopolitics Conference, Brisbane, Australia; paper entitled *Implications of Biotechnology for the South*; Jean Christie
* September 20, 1993; Testimony before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Research, Conservation, Forestry and General Legislation, on Plant Variety Protection Act Amendments of 1993; Hope Shand
* October 1993; Fenner Conference on International Trade Policy; Sydney, Australia; plenary presentation on biodiversity, biotechnology and trade; Erna Bennett
* October 1993; Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) "Centres Week"; panel presentation on biodiversity and plant genetic resources; Pat Mooney
* October 15, 1993, Dublin, Ireland; GORTA (The Irish Freedom From Hunger Campaign) World Food Day Seminar; Keynote address entitled *Sharing Nature’s Diversity*; Pat Mooney
* November 13, 1993; 8th Annual Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, Raleigh, North Carolina; workshop on *Bacillus Thuringiensis*; Hope Shand
* January 23, 1994; ECO-FAIR 1994 - Annual Conference of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group; Austin, Texas, USA; speech entitled *The Importance of Agricultural Genetic Resources for Sustainable Agriculture*; Hope Shand
* January 1994; Environment Canada Consultation on Canada’s Biodiversity Strategy; participation by Jean Christie
* February 1994; interview and provision of documents for a policy study by Canada’s Department of Industry, on ethical considerations of life patenting; Jean Christie
* February 4, 1994; South Centre, Geneva; seminar on the implications of the Biodiversity Convention for the South; Pat Mooney
* March 5, 1994; California Academy of Sciences Conference; San Francisco, Calif, USA; speech entitled *Biotechnology, Global Food Systems and the role of Indigenous Knowledge*; Hope Shand
* April 28-29, 1994; NGO Islands Forum Workshop, held in conjunction with the UN Global Conference on Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados; presentation entitled *The Value and Use of SIDS’ Genetic Resources*; Hope Shand
* May 11, 1994; Comments submitted to the Australian government on Plant Breeders Rights Bill of 1994; Hope Shand
* May 23, 1994; Sixth Annual Meeting, National Agricultural Biotechnology Council (USA); keynote speech entitled *Agricultural Biotechnology and the Public Good*; Hope Shand
* May 24, 1994; Testimony before the U.S. House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition, at hearings on Amendments to the Plant Variety Protection Act; Hope Shand
* June 1994; CGIAR annual mid-term review, New Delhi; panel presentation on *People, Plants and Patents*, report of the Crucible Group report on intellectual property rights; Pat Mooney
* June 1994; International Development Research Centre, Ottawa; panel presentation on *People, Plants and Patents*; Pat Mooney. (Later broadcast on Canada’s Parliamentary TV channel)
* June 1994; Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Biodiversity Convention, Nairobi, Kenya; panel presentation for delegates on *People, Plants and Patents*; Pat Mooney; presentation to delegates on attempted takeover by World Bank of CGIAR; Pat Mooney
* August 22, 1944; Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Canada; seminar on biodiversity, biotechnology and related policy; Jean Christie
* September 17-18, 1994; Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, San Francisco; consultation among U.S. and Canadian activists on Biodiversity; presentation on the value of Biodiversity; Pat Mooney
* September 19, 1994; Citizens’ Dialogue on Biodiversity, Biotechnology, and Intellectual Property Rights, San Francisco, USA; panel presentation on Biotechnology and Biopiracy; Pat Mooney
* September 28-30 1994; Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Reunion Regional Sobre Propiedad Intellectual y Pueblos Indigenas (Regional Meeting on Intellectual Property and Indigenous Peoples); international consultants to the meeting, and presentation of three RAIF papers: *Intellectual Property -
Fora and Focus for the Evolving Debate, An Overview of Bio-Piracy, and An Overview of Bioprospecting; Jean Christie and Hope Shand
* October 1994; Ottawa, Canada; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); RAFI presented a report entitled Agrigenda 21: A Multilateral Agricultural Agenda for Canada to CIDA’s Multilateral Division
* October 11, 1994; Winnipeg, Canada; University of Manitoba Environmental Awareness Week; presentation to the Faculty of Agriculture entitled Agriculture and the Biodiversity Convention; Pat Mooney
* October 13, 1994; RAFI provided briefing materials on human patenting to a British member of the European Parliament, prior to parliamentary debate on intellectual property and biotechnology
* October 20-21, 1994; Swissaid/WWF "Plants, Genes, and Butterflies" (International Symposium); Berne, Switzerland; keynote address and concluding comments; Pat Mooney
* November 23, 1994; Brandon, Canada; Agricultural Biodiversity: A Symposium Sponsored by the Marquis Project; presentation by Pat Mooney
* December 5 - 9, 1994; Nassau, Bahamas; Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention; three workshops for delegates on intellectual property and agriculture, to follow up Crucible Project - each attended by about 45 government officials/NGOs.