

RAFI's Impact: 1998

RAFI Publications, Media Coverage, and Outreach

1998 was the fifth year that RAFI maintained a list of RAFI publications and media outreach. We realize it is no substitute for qualitative measures, but we continue to keep this record, because it is a crude quantitative indicator of RAFI's impact. Below are lists of *RAFI Communiqués* and *Occasional Papers*, *RAFI Translators*, News Releases, and *Geno-Types*, plus a record of other publications where RAFI material appeared in 1998. These are followed by summaries of media contacts and coverage in the North and South, and a calendar of speaking engagements and other events where RAFI's research was disseminated. Lastly, there is a summary of RAFI's electronic information services, which have become the centrepiece of RAFI's information dissemination. Because we conducted a North American periodical search for media references, the information presented below is significantly skewed in favour of North America. Media impact in the South and in Australia and Europe is almost certainly under-represented. Numerous citations of RAFI material in academic journals have not been included, because they are not monitored systematically. Academics and students, however, represent a substantial proportion of RAFI's website users.

As a more qualitative indicator of RAFI's impact, RAFI is pleased to report that RAFI's Executive Director Pat Mooney received Canada's Pearson Peace Medal in December 1998. Granted by the United Nations Association in Canada, and conferred by Canada's Governor General, the medal recognized Pat's ground-breaking work to oppose the loss of genetic diversity in agriculture, and his efforts to bring the voice of global civil society to the rarefied world of inter-governmental negotiations. Because RAFI's work is largely international, it is, ironically, better known abroad than at home. It is a particular pleasure to receive this recognition in Canada, where RAFI has its base.

Also in December, we learned that RAFI was to be recognized in the USA in 1999 by "Project Censored", for having broken one of the most censored stories in 1998 - the seed sterilizing "Terminator Technology".

RAFI Communiques - 1998

By the end of 1998, print copies of the *RAFI Communiques* were being mailed to over 800 subscribers, in 88 countries. Three issues were published during the year.

- **January/February:** *The "Australian" PBR Scandal - Pinning the Tail on the Ostrich*
- **March/April:** *The Terminator Technology: New Genetic Technology Aims to Prevent Farmers from Saving Seeds*
- **July/August:** *Seed Industry Consolidation: Who Owns Whom*

RAFI Occasional Papers 1998:

- **vol. 5, no. 1, June 1998:** *Terminator Trends: The Silent Spring of Farmers' Rights*
- **vol. 5, no. 2, July 1998:** *Repeat the Term! Governments at FAO's Gene Commission Fail to Make the Grade*
- **vol. 5, no. 3, August 1998:** *RAFI's Impact - The Terminator File*
- **vol. 5, no. 4, September 1998:** *Plant Breeders' Wrongs*

RAFI Translators 1998:

In 1996, RAFI launched the *RAFI Translator* series. These occasional publications provide an analysis of official texts, made available to NGOs and policy-makers as appropriate. In 1998 RAFI produced two issues.

- **vol. 2, no. 1; October 21, 1998:** *Frustrated Harvest*
- **vol. 2, no. 2; October 23 1998:** *Dead Seed Scroll? The USDA'S Terminator Defense*

RAFI News Releases - 1998:

In 1997, RAFI introduced an information service which now sends news releases and news updates called "Geno-Types" to the electronic mailboxes of about 850 subscribers in over 70 countries. All are then posted on RAFI's website. Titles produced in 1997-98 are:

- **January 6:** *Recent Australian Claims to Indian and Iranian Chickpeas Countered by NGOs and ICRISAT - or, how to "invent" a chickpea without really trying*

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- **January 21:** *Australians Abandon Two Plant "Patent" Claims - but many questions remain... and the fate of 25 other claims is in doubt*
- **February 1:** *Aussies "Pirate" Others Genius? International Confusion, Anger Greet Australian Kleptomania of Farmers' Plant Varieties from Other Countries*
- **February 2:** *International Research Centre (ICARDA) Breaks Trust - Allows Australians to "Patent" Plants Supposedly Held in Trust for Farmers*
- **February 9:** *Toward a Global Moratorium on Plant Monopolies - UN FAO, CGIAR Move to Defend Farmers' Rights, Crop Germplasm; Call for Plant "Patent" Moratorium on CG Seeds*
- **March 13:** *Biotech Activists Oppose the Terminator Technology - New Patent Aims to Prevent Farmers from Saving Seed*
- **March 20:** *Terminating Food Security? The Terminator technology threatens the food security of 1.4 billion*
- **May 14 (Bratislava):** *Monsanto Takes Terminator - It's Now or Never for Agricultural Biodiversity in Bratislava*
- **June 10 (Rome):** *Australians Thwart Progress on Farmers' Rights*
- **July 7:** *Grameen Turns Mean? From Poverty-fighter to the peasant's Pinkerton*
- **August 5:** *Grameen Bank and the Monster - Grameen Rejects Mean*
- **August 24:** *And now the "Verminator"! Fat Cat Corp. with Fat Rat Gene Can Kill Crops*
- **September 16:** *Plant Breeder's Wrongs -147 Reasons to Cancel the WTO's Plant Patenting Provisions*
- **October 21:** *Frustrated Harvest - The frost has come early for the CGIAR's much-awaited Systemwide Review*
- **October 23:** *CGIAR to Avoid Terminator Technology - Concludes Terminator is Bad for Farmers and Bad for Biodiversity*
- **November 2:** *CGIAR Adopts "No Terminator" Policy - Policy Praiseworthy, NGOs to Push for More International Action*
- **November 10:** *Plant Breeders' Wrongs Righted in Australia? More Claims Abandoned, More Concerns Uncovered*
- **December 13:** *Monsanto Terminates Terminator? Get Ready for T2*

RAFI Geno-Types - 1998:

- **January 6:** *Chickpeas Claims Cause Concern*
- **January 22:** *Australian PBR Claims*
- **March 11:** *Seed Savers Threatened - US Patent on New Genetic Technology Will Prevent Farmers from Saving Seed*
- **March 11:** *Ayahuasca Patent Row*
- **April 1:** *Basmati Rice Patent*
- **April 30:** *Canada Rejects Oncomouse Patent*
- **May 22:** *Quinoa Patent Dropped*
- **May 22:** *RAFI Launches Postcard Campaign to Oppose Basmati Rice Patent*
- **June 2:** *Terminator at COP IV*
- **June 11:** *American Home "Monster"?*
- **June 17:** *deCODE Genetics on Ice*
- **June 30:** *The "Monster" Strikes Again - Monsanto/American Home Products Buy Cargill's Overseas Seeds Operations*
- **July 13:** *Of "Luddites" and Eli-ites"*
- **October 2:** *Seed Seeds, Trust Us - Terminator So Bad, Even Monsanto Can't put a Spin on It (also in Spanish)*
- **November 10:** *Monsanto's "Spectre" Dims - Company "Terminates" Almost 10% of its Global Workforce*

Other RAFI Publications 1998

- *Development Dialogue: The Parts of Life;* book length edition of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation Journal, on issues relating to plant genetic diversity; by Pat Mooney (January 1998)

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- *Altered Genes: Reconstructing Nature - The Debate*; (Richard Hindmarsh, Geoffrey Lawrence, Janet Norton, editors); chapter entitled *Enclosing the Biodiversity Commons: Bioprospecting or Biopiracy?* by Jean Christie (Allen and Unwin, 1998)
- United Nations Environment Program; *Global Biodiversity Assessment, volume 2* on the cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity (Darrell Posey, editor); article entitled *Rural Societies and the Logic of Generosity*; by Jean Christie and Pat Mooney (1998)
- *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, vol. XIX, Special Issue 1998, entitled *The Quest for Food Security in the Twenty-First Century*; "*Agricultural Biodiversity, Biopiracy and Food Security*"; by Hope Shand (1998)
- *Mother Jones*; "*An Owners' Guide - Pharmaceutical companies are mining your DNA for Scientific Gold*"; graphic and text on human patenting; researched and written by Hope Shand, and designed by *Mother Jones*; 30,000 copies reprinted and distributed by *Mother Jones*, for educational purposes; Story featured on MJ website and linked to RAFI's homepage (May/June 1998)
- *Say No to Genetically Engineered Foods (1998)*; a resource booklet by Pesticides Action Network - Asia Pacific; article by Hope Shand entitled *Piracy by Patent*
- *Fields of Genes: Making Sense of Biotechnology*; a curriculum produced by 4-H USA on environmental stewardship for youth; makes references to RAFI materials, and provides link to RAFI website

NGO Publications at International Events in 1998 (with RAFI editorial support)

- May 6, 1998; Bratislava, Slovakia; *BioTalk* vol. 7, no.1 (produced at the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention - COP IV)
- May 11, 1998; Bratislava, Slovakia; *BioTalk* vol. 7, no.2

RAFI Media Relations and Coverage in the North - 1998:

Note: *Entries in italics* refer to known media coverage on the dates indicated. Entries in normal type represent media contacts that were made on the date indicated, the results of which are not known.

- 1998; *LifeStrains - Biotechnologies Resource Guide (Canada)*; *profile of RAFI*
- Winter 1998; *Human Environment (Sweden)*; *Biological Meltdown and Biopiracy, Biodiversity and People: The Right to Say "No" to Monopoly Patents that are Predatory on the South's Resources and Knowledge*; by Hope Shand

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- January; **The Ram's Horn** no. 155 (Canada); *"Human Nature" book review*
- January; **Nature Magazine** (UK); provided information for an article on Terminator
- Jan. 13; **PIC Press** (Canada); provided background information about life industry support for public sector institutions
- Jan. 20; **ABC National Radio "Countrywide"**, (Australia); *interview with Pat Mooney on Australian chickpea plant breeder's rights claims*
- Jan. 20; **ABC international service**, (Australia); *interview with Pat Mooney on Australian chickpea plant breeder's rights claims*
- Jan. 21; **The Guardian** (UK); *Human Patenting: Blood Money*
- Jan. 23; **Inter Press Service** (international); *Australian Patent Case Highlights Bio-piracy*
- Jan 27; **CBC Radio "This Morning"** (Canada); *interview with Pat Mooney on biopiracy*
- Jan. 29; **Sunday Age** (Melbourne, Australia); provided information on Australian chickpea biopiracy
- Jan. 30; **Farm Weekly** (Perth, Australia); provided information and contacts on Australian chickpea biopiracy
- January/February; **Canadian Dimension** (Canada); *Of Monopolies and Meltdown - Patents and the Biodiversity Commons*; by Jean Christie, Pat Mooney and Hope Shand
- February; **CORSO Overview** (Aotearoa / New Zealand); *RAFI Press Release - Aussies "Pirate" Others Genius?*
- February; **Green Connection #18** (Australia); *native plant rights*
- Feb. 2; **ABC National Radio "Countrywide"** (Australia); *story on Australian appropriation of CGIAR/FAO germplasm*
- Feb. 10; **ABC National Radio "Asia Pacific"** (Australia); provided information and contacts on agricultural biopiracy in Australia
- Feb. 11; **CGIAR Press Release** (international); *CGIAR Urges Halt to Granting of Intellectual Property Rights for Designated Plant Germplasm*
- Feb. 12; **Ikon TV "The Other Face"** (The Netherlands); *feature interview with Pat Mooney*

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- Feb. 13; **CBC National Radio "Ideas" (Canada)**; provided contacts for research on the use of antibiotics in agriculture
- Feb. 13; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *Australia Accused of Bio-piracy*
- Feb. 14; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Lest we starve* (editorial); and *Seeds of Wrath*; *New Scientist* website linked to RAFI website
- Feb. 18; **The Weekly Times (Australia)**; *Plant Rights Under Fire*
- Feb. 19; **Nature vol. 391 (UK)**; *Call for Moratorium on Seedbank Patents*
- Feb. 26; **CBC National Radio "Quirks and Quarks" (Canada)**; interview with Pat Mooney
- March; **Australasian Science (incorporating Search) (Australia)**; *Australia Bungles Plant Breeders Rights*
- March; **CGIAR News (international)**; *The CGIAR Calls for a Moratorium*
- March; **The Curator - Heritage Seed Curators' Association (Australia)**; *Australia Bungles Plant Breeders Rights* (reprint from Australian Science)
- March; **Fuse Magazine (Canada)**; *Biocolonization and Biopiracy - The Final Frontier*
- March; **Global Pesticide Campaigner (USA/international)**; *People, Innovation and Agricultural Biodiversity* (excerpt from *Human Nature* by Hope Shand); *Commercial Ag. Dominated by Global Corporations*; and *Moratorium on Patenting Seeds*
- March; **PIC Press (Canada)**; *Playing God, or saving the world?*
- March; **GRAIN Seedling (Spain/international)**; *The Chickpea Scandal - Trust or Consequences?* By Pat Mooney
- March 6; **American Association for the Advancement of Science (USA)**; *Brazil wants a cut of its biological bounty; legislation passed on bioprospecting rights*
- March 10; **BBC (UK)** ; *interview with Pat Mooney on Australian agricultural biopiracy*
- March 12; **ABC Radio, Northern Territory (Australia)**; provided information and contacts for a story on kava production in Australia
- March 14; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Letter - Plants and Property*
- March 19; **The Guardian (UK)**; provided information on the implications of plant patents for the South

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- March 19; KPFA-FM Radio (USA); *hour long interview with Hope Shand on Terminator technology*
- March 20; KPFA-FM Radio (USA); *interview with Pat Mooney on Terminator technology*
- March 22; Guardian Weekly (UK/international); *Human Patenting: Blood Money*
- March 22; freelance journalist (Canada); *provided information about human gene hunting and human "disease gene" patents*
- March 22; The Independent on Sunday (UK); *'Terminator' seeds threaten a barren future for farmers*
- March 23; Discovery Channel (Canada); *provided information on bioprospecting*
- March 24; BBC Radio "Farming Today" (UK); *interview with Hope Shand on Terminator technology*
- March 25; Inter Press Service (international); *Development Rights: Battle Over Amazon Plant Patents*
- March 26; freelance television journalist (UK); *provided suggestions for TV documentary on biopiracy*
- March 27; Internet Patent News (USA); *story on Australian chickpea patent withdrawal*
- March 28; New Scientist (UK); *End of the germ line*
- March 28; Vancouver Co-op Radio (Canada); *interview with Pat Mooney on the Terminator technology*
- March 28; Winnipeg Free Press (Canada); *'Terminator' method puts lock on seeds*
- March 29; Reuters (UK/international); *U.S Agency Criticized Over Amazon Plant Patent*
- March 31; Inter Press Service (international); *New Seed Technology Threatens Farmers*
- March 31; Reuters/Convergencia/InfoLatina (UK/South America); *La patente sobre una planta sagrada amazonica causa polemica en EU*
- April; Nature (UK); *Africa defends rights to indigenous knowledge*
- April; Campagnes Solidaires (France); *La transgenese outil democratique; enfin des varietes veritablement steriles!*

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- April ; Echoes, World Council of Churches (international); granted permission to reprint two RAFI articles from *BioTalk*
- April 7; Contrapress (Germany); *Sterile Saat Bauern abhaengig machen*
- April 7-13; Mother Jones (USA); *A Seedy Business*
- April 9; Western Producer (Canada); *Seed comes with off switch to stop illegal growth*
- April 18; Radio Station, Boston (USA); *talk show discussing Terminator technology; guest Hope Shand*
- April 19; Synvinkeln (Sweden); *Total Kontroll Over Frona*
- April 19; St. Louis Post Dispatch (USA); *Critics Call it the "Terminator" (front page story)*
- April 21; Swedish public radio (Sweden); *interview with Pat Mooney on Terminator technology*
- April 22; Dutch film-maker (Netherlands); *interview with Pat Mooney on genetic diversity*
- April 23; Ottawa Citizen (Canada); *provided reactions and contacts on Canadian Federal Court oncomouse decision*
- April 26; The New York Times (USA); *The Clues Are in the Blood*
- April 28; Development Today (Sweden); *The Legacy of Linnaeus, the Biopirate; by Pat Mooney*
- April 28; Swedish public radio (Sweden); *Science show "Vetandets varld"; interview with Pat Mooney*
- April 29; CBC National Radio "This Morning" (Canada); *interview with Pat Mooney on draft US regulations on organic labelling, and Terminator technology*
- April 29; Discovery Channel TV (Canada); *research interview on genetically altered crops*
- May; Cornerstones (Sweden) journal of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation; *The cloning race hots up - and RAFI nails bio-bandits*
- May; National Catholic Reporter (USA); *provided information on Canadian Federal Court decision on oncomouse*
- May; US News and Wire Report (USA); *interview with Pat Mooney on biopiracy*
- May 1; Il Mundo (Italy); *provided information on the life industries and human patenting*

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- May 11; **The Nation (New York, USA)**; *"Amplification"* (crediting RAFI for un-credited RAFI material in April 13 issue)
- May 15; **National Catholic Reporter (USA)**; *Activists see threat to food supply in form of new "terminator technology"*
- May 17; **National Public Radio (USA)**; *"All Things Considered"*; *interview with Hope Shand on terminator technology*
- May 23; **Associated Press (USA/international)**; *Sterile Seeds Patent Sparks Debate*
- May 28; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *"Terminator Technology" - One Step too Far?*
- May 29; **ZDF Television (Germany)**; provided information on biopiracy cases in Latin America
- May/June; **Mother Jones (USA)**; *An Owners' Guide - pharmaceutical companies are mining your DNA for scientific gold* and *Where New Genes Come From* (a feature partly researched and written by RAFI)
- May/June; **World Watch (USA)**; *Bio-serfdom and the New Feudalism* (also linked to RAFI website)
- May/June; **International Agricultural Development (UK)**; *Terminating Food Security?*
- June; **Global Pesticide Campaigner (USA)**; *"Terminator Technology" Prevents Farmers from Saving Seed* (reprint of RAFI Communiqué)
- June; **Inter Pares Bulletin (Canada)**; *Biopiracy and the Commons*
- June 2-5; **New Scientist (UK)**; provided information on quinoa patent abandonment
- June 3; **CBC Radio (Canada)**; interview with Pat Mooney
- June 3; **Stern Magazine (Germany)**; interview with Hope Shand on Terminator technology
- June 4; **Associated Press (USA/international)**; provided information on agricultural biopiracy
- June 14; **Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)**; *Food Scientists "Philanthropists or Frankensteins?"*
Grocery Genetics
- June 15; **The Australian (Sydney, Australia)**; provided information on the role of Australian delegation at the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

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- June 17; **New York Times (USA)**; interview with Pat Mooney on trends in agricultural biotechnology and Terminator technology
- June 19; **CBS TV "60 Minutes" (USA)**; briefing teleconference with production staff on Terminator technology
- June 29; **BBC Radio (UK)**; provided contacts on genetically engineered foods and genetic engineering for herbicide tolerance
- July; **Acres Australia (Australia)**; *'Copyright' system challenged*
- July; **Sources - Directory of Contacts for Editors, Publishers and Researchers (Canada)**; no. 42; *article on RAFI and reference to website*
- July; **GeneWatch (USA)**; *Canadian Judge Rules "Oncomouse" Not Patentable*; by Jean Christie
- July 2; **FM Radio Station, Los Angeles (USA)**; interview with Pat Mooney on Monsanto and the Grameen Bank
- July 6; **Wired (USA)**; provided information on genetically engineered plants and Terminator technology
- July 16; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *Grameen, Monsanto Sowing Seed of Ruin?*
- July 17; **The Age (Melbourne, Australia)**; *article by Tania Ewing*
- July 27; **The Independent (London, UK)**; *We have the technology to terminate your plants*
- July 28; **CBC Radio (Canada)**; provided research support for a one hour documentary on genetics and food
- July 30; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *Monsanto Forging Ahead Without Grameen*
- July 31; **The Australian (Sydney, Australia)**; provided information on the Terminator
- August; **Science (UK)**; provided support for an article entitled *Biodiversity Treaty - Botanical Gardens Cope with Bioprospecting Loophole*
- August; **New Internationalist (UK/international)**; *news update on Terminator*
- Aug. 4; **Australasian Business Intelligence (Australia)**; *Hazards of Sowing Seeds of Destruction*
- Aug. 6; **Toronto Star (Canada)**; interview with Pat Mooney on genetically engineered foods

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- Aug. 12; **Nature Canada (Canada)**; interview on patenting and biotech industry
- Sept. 10; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *Seed Industry Profiteers Threaten Farmers*
- Sept. 11; **Vision TV (Canada)**; research interview for two features on human genomics
- Sept. 14; **The World (Boston, USA)**; provided updated information on endod
- Sept. 14; **L'Actualite (Quebec, Canada)**; background interview on transgenic research and related issues
- Sept. 15; **Eindhovens Dadblad (Netherlands)**; *Erfelijk materiaal is exportproduct van 21ste eeuw*
- Sept. 16; **The London Free Press (Canada)**; *Genetic Wonders Big Business for Creators*
- September/October; **The Ecologist (UK) vol. 28, no. 5**; *Terminator Technology: The Threat to World Food Security*; by Ricarda Steinbrecher and Pat Mooney. (Note: All 14,000 copies of this issue entitled "The Monsanto Files: Can we survive genetic engineering?" were inexplicably destroyed by The Ecologist's printer before circulation. New printers were found and the issue was re-printed.)
- October; **World Times**; *A vast historical contribution counts for little; West reaps Ethiopia's genetic harvest*
- October; **Daily Mail (UK)**; provided information on Terminator technology
- Oct. 10; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Devilish Seed*
- Oct. 13; **National Film Board (Canada)**; research interviews with Pat Mooney on biotechnology
- Oct. 16; **The Irish Times (Ireland)**; *Who Are the Real Beneficiaries of GM Foods?*
- Oct. 17; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Seeds of Dissent*
- Oct. 19; **Inter Press Service (international)**; *U.S Biotech Giant Patents on "Terminator Gene"*
- Oct. 30; **Science (UK)**; *Seed Sterilizing 'Terminator Technology' Sows Discord* (lead news story)
- November; **Multinational Monitor (USA)**; *Terminator Seeds: Monsanto Moves to Tighten Its Grip on Global Agriculture*; by Hope Shand
- November; **Independent filmmaker (Canada)**; research support for a documentary on seed saving and opposition to plant patenting

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- November; **Script writer**; research support at the request of an internationally acclaimed actress for script material on the Terminator
- November; **Boston Globe**; provided information on Terminator technology
- Nov. 1; **St. Louis Post-Dispatch (USA)**; *Critics vilify new seed technology that Monsanto may soon control*
- Nov. 1; **Des Moines Register (USA)**; *New Patent Could Hurt Farmers*
- Nov. 4; **The Times of London (UK)**; *War on Killer Seed*
- Nov. 11; **GRAIN BIO-IPR Docserver (international)**; *Plant Breeders Wrongs Righted in Australia?*
- Nov. 11; **website launch and press release (USA)**; *Bay Area Artists Create Opposition to the Seed Terminator* (launch of an international artists' campaign against the Terminator)
- Nov. 16; **Globe and Mail (Toronto, Canada)**; *Genetic Engineering Threatens Traditions on the Farm*
- Nov. 19; **CBC Radio (Vancouver, Victoria, Prince George, Kelowna, Winnipeg, Sudbury, Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec City, Halifax - Canada)**; *ten regional interviews with Pat Mooney on the Terminator technology*
- Nov. 21; **New Scientist (UK)**; *Seed Safeguards*
- Nov. 24; **GRAIN BIO-IPR Docserver (international)**; *World's Largest International Agricultural Research Vows not to use Terminator Technology*
- Nov. 24; **BBC Radio (Scotland)**; *interview with Pat Mooney*
- Nov. 30; **High Grader Magazine (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on Terminator*
- Nov. 30; **Boulder Colorado daily paper (USA)**; *interview with Hope Shand on the Terminator technology*
- December; **(Australia)**; *Dead Seeds: trust us, you want them*
- December; **Eco-Consumer Newsletter (Australia)**; *Plant Breeders' Wrongs*
- Dec. 1; **CBS TV 60 Minutes (USA)**; research support for a January program on biotechnology
- Dec. 3; **Western Producer (Canada)**; provided information on corporate mergers, buyouts etc. in the life industries

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- Dec. 3; **National Public Television (Austria)**; *interview with Hope Shand on biodiversity, biotechnology, and biopiracy*
- Dec. 3; **National Radio (Russia)**; *interview with Hope Shand on biodiversity, biotechnology, and biopiracy*
- Dec. 3; **National Public Radio, weekly Science program (Netherlands)**; *interview with Hope Shand on biodiversity, biotechnology, and biopiracy*
- Dec. 4; **MTM-TV - Farm Show (Manitoba, Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on corporate mergers and agribusiness*
- Dec. 15; **Melbourne Age (Australia)**; *Meet the company that would privatise nature itself - Monsanto*
- Dec. 15; **CBC AM, CBC As It Happens (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on winning the Pearson Peace Medal*
- Dec. 15; **Southam News (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on winning the Pearson Peace Medal*
- Dec. 15; **Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on winning the Pearson Peace Medal*
- Dec. 15; **Manitoba Cooperator (Canada)**; *interview with Pat Mooney on winning the Pearson Peace Medal*
- Dec. 16; **Ottawa Citizen (Canada)**; *Biodiversity "crackpot" wins Pearson Peace Medal - Activist wages war against 'life patents'*
- Dec. 17; **Danish National Radio (Denmark)**; *interview with Pat Mooney for feature on biotechnology*
- Dec. 18; **Channel 4 (UK)**; *interview with Pat Mooney for a feature on biotechnology*

RAFI Media Relations and Coverage in the South - 1997

- January; **Pacific News Bulletin (South Pacific)**; *Hagahai patent: US Disclaimer*
- Feb. 1; **Mid-day Publications (India)**; *Chasing the Indian Chickpea and The Great Indian Chana Heist and A chickpea Chronology*

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- Feb. 6; **Media briefing (Bangladesh)**; briefing for Bangladeshi media by UBINIG, on RAFI disclosures about Australian PBR claims on farmers varieties
- March; **India Today (India)**; provided information on agricultural biopiracy
- March; **Third World Resurgence issue no. 92 (Malaysia/international)**; *New Patent Aims to Prevent Farmers from Saving Seed* (extensive quotes from RAFI media release)
- April 19; **New Straits Times (Malaysia)**; *Patents as Instruments of Power*
- May 13; **Inter Press Service (Thailand/international)**; *Thailand: Farmers Protest Copycat "Jasmine" Rice*
- May 31; **Economic Times (India)**; *Book Review - Human Nature*
- June 8; **The News - Info Latina (Mexico)**; *Seed Sterilization Technique Sows Discord Among Critics*
- July; **Global Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security - Bulletin (Brazil/international)**; *Terminator Update*; by Jean Christie
- July; **Daily Observer (Bangladesh)**; *article on biopiracy*
- July - first week; **Veja (Brazil)**; *article on Monsanto purchase of Cargill's overseas operations*
- July 20; **Xinua News Agency (China)**; *New seed technology threatens third world: experts*
- July 31; **The Economic Times (India)**; provided information on the Terminator
- August; **Pesticides Action Network (Asia Pacific)**; *Piracy by Patent*; by Hope Shand
- Aug. 16; **Folha de Sao Paolo (Brazil)**; *O gene exterminador*
- Aug. 26; **Global Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security (international)**; *More on the Terminator Trend* (reprint of RAFI *Geno-Type*)
- September; **Far Eastern Economic Review (international)**; provided information for an article entitled *The Double Jeopardy of "Intellectual Property Rights"* , submitted for publication
- Sept. 25; **Inter Press Service (Zimbabwe/international)**; *Genetic Engineering Will Not Benefit Poor Farmers*
- Oct. 2; **The Hindu (India)**; *India - Talks on for licensing the 'Terminator Gene'*
- Oct. 13; **New Straits Times (Malaysia)**; *Truly the seeds of destruction*

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- Oct. 15; **Global Forum on Food Security - listserver (Brazil/international); RAFI Campaign Against Terminator - Update**
- Oct. 24; **Zimbabwe National Television (Harare, Zimbabwe);** debate between Monsanto representative and Pat Mooney, on Terminator technology
- Oct. 24 -25; **press interviews (Zimbabwe);** numerous interviews with Pat Mooney by print and electronic media
- Dec. 3; **Global Forum on Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security, vol. 2, no. 7 (Brazil/international); And Now the "Verminator" - Fat Cat Corporation with Fat Rat Gene Can Kill Crops;** by RAFI
- Dec. 14; **Business India (India); To Terminate or not to...**
- Dec. 22; **Inter Press Service (India/international); India: Warning Against Transgenic Seeds**

RAFI Speaking Engagements, Workshops and Briefings - 1998:

- Jan. 23; **Memphis, Tennessee (USA);** Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group conference "Is Biotechnology Compatible with Sustainability?"; presentation and workshop by Hope Shand
- Jan. 23; **Ottawa (Canada);** Carleton University/Studies in Political Economy Seminar; panel presentation on intellectual property; Jean Christie
- February; **Windsor, Ontario (Canada);** exhibition by artist Ron Benner at the Devonshire Mall, entitled "The Commodification of Life"; RAFI materials extensively cited in accompanying text.
- March 24; **Pittsboro, NC (USA);** European delegation of 17 ministries of agriculture, food and the environment; presentation on genetically engineered foods; Hope Shand
- March 24; **Raleigh, NC (USA);** Keystone Panel on "Trends in US Agriculture"; presentation on life industry consolidation and Terminator technology; Hope Shand
- April 5-8; **Lima (Peru);** COICA workshop on "The Importance of Traditional Knowledge for the Pharmaceutical Industry, and its Implications for Indigenous Peoples"; resource person on biopiracy, Edward Hammond
- April 23; **Oslo (Norway);** NORAGRIC/Norwegian Development Fund Seminar; presentation entitled "The (Agriclutlural) Parts of Life - Recent Developments in the Struggle over the Control of Agricultural Biodiversity; Pat Mooney

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- April 23/24; **South Pacific**; written briefing for governments on issues relating to intellectual property, biopiracy and the World Court; Jean Christie
- May 7; **Bratislava (Slovakia)**; RAFI seminar on the Terminator technology, for delegates and observers, Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention (COP IV); Edward Hammond and Hope Shand debated Delta and Pine Land Vice President for Technology Transfer
- May 8; **Bratislava (Slovakia)**; Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network - panel discussion on intellectual property as a benefits' sharing mechanism; presentation by Edward Hammond
- May 11; **Bratislava (Slovakia)**; panel discussion on intellectual property and *ex situ* collections; presentation by Edward Hammond and Hope Shand
- May 12; **Bratislava (Slovakia)**; postcard campaign kick-off and briefing seminar on Basmati Rice patents, for delegates to COP IV; Edward Hammond and Hope Shand
- May 29; **Washington (USA)**; briefing of US Congress Progressive Caucus, on life patenting; included RAFI material on Terminator Technology and FAO/CGIAR Trust abuses, and *The Ownership of Life*, co-authored by Hope Shand; presented by Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- May 30; **Ottawa (Canada)**; Canadian Council for International Cooperation Annual Meeting; Food Security Workshop; presentation and resource person, Jean Christie
- June 8-15; **Rome (Italy)**; FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; participation in negotiations in revision of FAO Undertaking; Pat Mooney and Edward Hammond
- June 9; **Rome (Italy)**; FAO Commission on GRFA; RAFI seminar on Terminator Technology; debate with Delta and Pineland VP on Terminator; Pat Mooney
- June 23; **Ottawa (Canada)**; Vienna + 5 Global NGO Forum on Human Rights; workshop on human patenting, by Jean Christie
- July 13-14; **Ottawa (Canada)**; International Development Research Centre; Workshop on Agricultural Biodiversity, Gender and Ethnicity; participation and presentation on community biodiversity registries; by Jean Christie
- July 17-19; **St. Louis, Missouri (USA)**; The First Grassroots Gathering on Biodevastation: Genetic Engineering; three panel presentations on Artificial Foods; Human Health and the Right to Know; and Corporate Control of Food Production vs. Economic Self-Sufficiency; workshop on Making Patents and Biopiracy a Public Concern; all by Hope Shand
- July 18-19; **Decorah, Iowa (USA)**; Seed Savers annual meeting; speech by Pat Mooney
- Sept. 18; **Ottawa (Canada)**; Philippine Development Assistance Programme Annual Forum; keynote address and panel presentation; Pat Mooney

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- Sept. 21; **Stockholm (Sweden)**; SIDA / Foreign Affairs; five hour seminar for 20 senior government officials from several departments, on multilateral policy issues relating to Plant Genetic Resources; by Pat Mooney with Cary Fowler
- Sept. 22; **Stockholm (Sweden)**; briefing of SIDA officials on policy issues relating to Plant Genetic Resources; Pat Mooney
- Sept. 24; **Harare (Zimbabwe)**; Seminar funded by Friederich Ehbert Stiftung on the Future of Agriculture; presentation on agricultural biotechnology, and impromptu debate with Monsanto representative on the Terminator technology; Pat Mooney
- Sept. 25; **Harare (Zimbabwe)**; PELUM conference on Seed Saving, with participants from South and East Africa; presentation by Pat Mooney
- Oct. 30; **Brisbane (Australia)**; book launch for *Altered Genes*; participation by chapter author Jean Christie
- Nov. 9; **Rockhampton (Australia)**; University of Central Queensland "Women in Research" seminar on biopiracy; Jean Christie
- Dec. 2-4; **Vienna (Austria)**; UNIDO Conference on "Biotechnology in Public: DNA and the Quality of Life"; panel presentation by Hope Shand
- Dec. 5-10; **Rishikesh (India)**; Conference on the "Implications of Genetically Modified Organisms on the Agricultures of the South"; workshop on "Gene Trade and Rural Communities"; by Edward Hammond
- Dec. 10-15; **Manila (Philippines)**; SEARICE planning meeting for regional biopiracy program; participation by Edward Hammond
- Dec. 15; **Ottawa (Canada)**; presentation of the Pearson Peace Medal to Pat Mooney, by Canada's Governor General Romeo LeBlanc

RAFI on the Internet

All RAFI materials, including research publications, *Annual Reports*, and *Financial Statements* are made available as they are published on RAFI's website, which was created, is updated regularly, and managed in-house by Edward Hammond. By late 1998, nearly 300 RAFI documents could be reviewed and downloaded from the website, free of charge. Use of the website has grown steadily since it was set up in 1996. In 1998 RAFI delivered approximately 168,000 WWW pages to internet users in 123 countries. The number of WWW pages delivered monthly more than quadrupled during the year, from about 7,000 in January to over 30,000 in October 1998. If usage continues at this rate in 1999, we can anticipate delivering 360,000 WWW pages in the coming year. In fact, we expect website use to increase substantially beyond this level in 1999.

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RAFI also operates an internet listserver which distributes all RAFI Press Releases and *Geno-Types* to about 850 journalists, researchers and policy makers in over 70 countries. This service allows RAFI to deliver late-breaking news stories and analysis to subscribers' electronic mailboxes extremely quickly.

In 1998, RAFI began to use the internet as an integral part of our international campaigning. As part of a year-long effort to oppose the seed sterilizing Terminator technology, for example, RAFI created an interactive facility on the website in October. Visitors to RAFI's internet site could use it to compose personal letters of protest to the US Secretary of Agriculture and to send them by electronic mail from the RAFI website. By year end, 4,250 people from 67 countries had sent messages in this way to US Department of Agriculture, opposing the Terminator, criticizing the use of US public funds for its development, and calling for a halt to commercial licensing of the patent which covers it. As directed by the letter writers, copies of these letters were also sent to relevant government authorities all over the world.

Increasingly, RAFI's website is also linked to the sites of other organizations. Hope Shand's book, *Human Nature* is available on the FAO website. Pat Mooney's *The Parts of Life* is also posted on the internet site of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation. Both are directly linked to RAFI's website. Conversely, *People, Plants and Patents* (1996) on RAFI's website has directed over 1,000 people to the internet address of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). RAFI publications which refer to other institutions (for example in case-by-case examples of "Plant Breeder's Wrongs") have links to the websites and databases of the implicated organizations. Articles about RAFI that appear in electronic versions of international publications are also frequently linked to RAFI's website.

There is no reliable way to quantify the value of these electronic communications. Clearly, RAFI's staff of five could not deal personally with even a fraction of the information requests that were handled during the year on the website. Nor could we provide the quality of information that self-directed research can provide. Similarly, one cannot measure the increased efficiency of personal contacts, which now are usually made after readers have seen a news release, consulted the website, and have precise questions to ask. If one could calculate the staff time and money saved by the electronic dissemination of information worldwide, and the multiplier effect of RAFI's electronic outreach, the value of the website would surely run to the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

www.rafi.org

