

# Captain Hook Awards for Biopiracy 2002

Presented by the Coalition against Biopiracy

## Most Offensive

**Winner**  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

For granting, then rejecting, and ultimately re-instating a US plant patent on the sacred Ayahuasca medicinal plant from the Amazon.

**Runner-Up**  
University of Toledo (Ohio, USA)

For its monopoly patent on Ethiopia's endod, and for demanding royalty payments from the Ethiopian people who wish to use it.

## Greediest

**Winner**  
Pod-Ners LLC

For bringing law-suits against farmers and small seed companies, claiming that yellow beans (grown for centuries by Mexican farmers) infringe the company's monopoly patent.

## Most Dangerous

**Winner**  
United States Patent and Trademark Office

For setting the precedent of granting sweeping monopoly patents on elements. The nanotechnology industry is positioned to control the building blocks of all living and non-living matter.

## Worst International Convention

**Winner**  
World Trade Organization

For failure to review and amend the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPs). Despite numerous proposals from South nations, there has been no substantive review of Article 27.3(b) nor has consideration been given to the option of excluding all biological materials from patentability.

## Worst Excuse

**Winner**  
Phytofarm

The company's multi-million dollar anti-obesity drug is based on the traditional knowledge of the San people of southern Africa. When asked about sharing the benefits with the San living in southern Africa today, Phytofarm's CEO said, "It's a really fraught problem... especially as the people who discovered the plant have disappeared."

**Runner-up**  
International Rice Research Institute

For breaching the CGIAR/FAO Trust Agreement by failing to obtain a signed Material Transfer Agreement before transferring Thai Jasmine rice to US researchers. In 2001, US researchers announced their goal of modifying the Thai jasmine strain for US growing conditions.

## Worst Corporate Offender

**Winner**  
Monsanto

For Monsanto's most recent attempt to gain a sweeping patent on soybeans (WO/0018963).

## Worst Anti-Food Security

**Winner**  
Syngenta

For seeking to privatize the rice genome and using intellectual property claims to deny full public access to its rice genome data.

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