

ACTIVITIES AT THE PLEC SITE AT TUMAM VILLAGE, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AUGUST 1999 TO OCTOBER 2000

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During 1999 and 2000, apart from the day to day activities of research and working with farmers at the Papua New Guinea PLEC site at Tumam and Ngahmbole villages in the East Sepik Province, four notable events took place. First, in August 1999 the sites were visited by the PLEC Demonstration Activities Advisory Team, Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez and Edwin Gyasi. Then in September 1999 the Associate Scientific Coordinator Michael Stocking and Scientific Adviser Geoff Humphries visited. Both groups were accompanied by John Sowe and Bryant Allen. In August 2000, Beretas Minjautahi, a senior expert farmer visited Canberra for three weeks and worked on an historical and genealogical record of group membership and land ownership at Tumam. Finally, in October 2000 a field day was held at the site.



Plate 1 A PLEC vehicle bogged between Maprik and Dreikikir, September 1999

Travel to the site from the international entry point to Papua New Guinea at Port Moresby, involves a two-and-a-half hour flight by Fokker jet aircraft right across the mainland to the northwest coast at Wewak. After over-nighting at Wewak, a 200 km road journey follows, over an often very rough and sometimes difficult road by four-wheel-drive vehicle (Plate 1).

In 1999, before the PLEC field base was fully inhabitable, the visitors stayed in a small house owned by the PNG Institute of Medical Research at Dreikikir, a now largely abandoned government outpost.



Plate 2 Chris Tokomiyer (Field Site Manager), John Sowe (Project Leader), Albert Yulimboh (expert farmer and plant taxonomist), Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez, Edwin Gyasi and Joel Ngemgutu (expert farmer and plant taxonomist) discussing yam cultivars in a garden, Tumam, August 1999

DAT visit, August 1999

Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez and Edwin Gyasi were taken on an extensive walking tour of the village lands and were able to look at