terrified, watching the yam he had been eating rolling backwards and forwards. He had been knocked off his feet by the initial shock.

He is acknowledged by the village as an expert farmer, and was the elected Village Councillor for over 20 years. He possesses a prodigious memory of births, deaths and marriages, as well as of group affiliations and occupation of land. Bryant Allen had collected genealogical information to further a study of land tenure and land use in the 1970s. Beretas came to Canberra in August 2000 and assisted Bryant, who had entered the material into a genealogical computer program, to clean the information and to make sense of the way in which his fellow villagers organize themselves and their land.

Field Day at Tumam, October 2000

The aim of the field day at Tumam was twofold. First it was to help show PLEC activities to a wider audience outside the sites. Second, it was to reflect back to the farmers in the villages, some of the information they had provided to the PLEC researchers and in particular, to impress upon them, the level of agrodiversity they have in their possession.

The field day was preceded by a one-day Symposium in Wewak, the main town in East Sepik Province. Representatives from the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Research and Conservation Foundation (RCF), representing the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in biodiversity conservation and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) Provincial Support Services attended. Two farmer representatives and the Site Manager from the other PLEC PNG site at Ogotana were assisted to travel to the Wewak Symposium and on to the Tumam field day.

The opening address was presented by the Provincial Administrator of the Department of East Sepik on behalf of the Governor. He expressed the need for PLEC-related research which generates data and information to support the planning processes at provincial and district levels. He further highlighted the need for impact assessment studies on farming systems and resource management. Development of sustainable agricultural methods was essential to help meet the growing demand for food from an increasing population in both rural and urban areas.

An unplanned outcome of the Symposium was an invitation from the local radio station, Radio Wewak, to Chris Tokomiyer, the PLEC Site Manager and Bansis Morris, an expert farmer, to come back to Wewak and record five radio programmes in Pidgin on the subjects of sustainable agriculture, and the importance of maintaining agrodiversity and biodiversity. These programmes were made with help from John Sowei in November 2000.

The field day consisted of a welcome to the visitors from a women’s dance group and then a pre-school children’s group, a prayer, and some short speeches from the visitors (Plate 6).