



Plate 6 Visitors to the field day at Tumam Village beneath the welcoming banner: Margaret Iori (expert farmer, Ogotana), Pascal Morove (NRI), Inara Bore Site Manager, Ogotana Demonstration Site), Michael Siri (DAL) Kanok Rerkasem (PLEC Regional Adviser, Chiang Mai, Thailand), Chris Tokomiyer (Site Manager, Tumam), Sine Boboro (expert farmer and village leader, Ogotana), Bryant Allen (ANU), Joel Ngemgutu (expert farmer), Abraham Hopotai (expert farmer). The banner reads 'Hrephrepme wah' which broadly translates as 'Environment and Gardens'

Joel Ngemgutu put on an interesting presentation, in which dressed in traditional costume (well almost; his grandparents went about completely naked), he held a digging stick and a spear, a stone axe, a fire stick and some yam and taro tubers and a small banana sucker in a bark carrier (Plate 7). He reminded everyone of how only one generation ago, people depended on the soil and the forest for everything and that the present generation should not forget the great resource of knowledge that was passed onto them by their parents, despite the rapid changes brought about by development.

Beneath a temporary, thatched shelter, the organizing committee had arranged an impressively large range of food species and cultivars, from the main root crops to numerous green leaves, cultivated and collected, and fungi and mushrooms. More than 30 cultivars of *Dioscorea esculenta* were labelled and on display, together with over 20 cultivars of *D. alata*, 25 banana



Plate 7 Joel Ngemgutu, reminding us of the value of the old ways and of the knowledge of plants and the forest learned from the ancestors

cultivars, and 15 or so *Colocasia* varieties (Plate 8).



Plate 8 Lusiya Sarewi, holding a *D. alata* cultivar grown exclusively by women. In the foreground are large *Pandanus canoideus* fruits. In the background just a few of the *D. alata* cultivars on display