

A number of very large *D. esculenta* tubers were arranged in a container in the fashion of customary exchanges (Plate 9). There was talk that next year, another field day should be based on a full customary exchange. Exchanges have been allowed to lapse, partly because of cultural changes and the introduction of some fundamental Christian sects, and partly because of the amount of hard work involved which younger men are not used to doing.

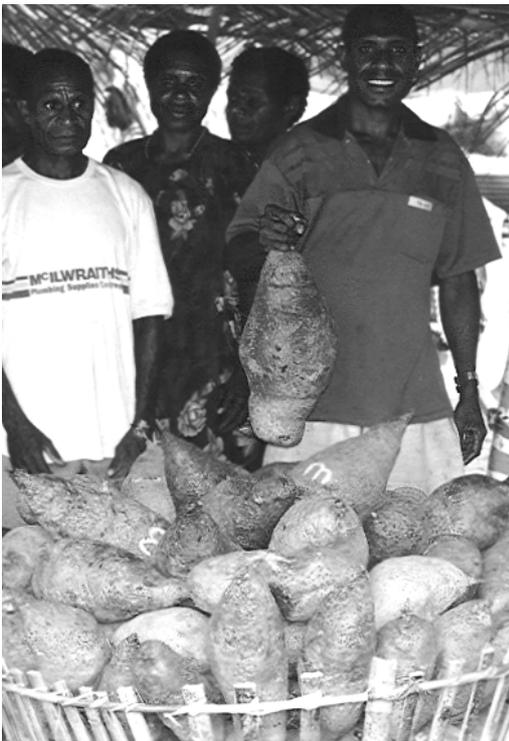


Plate 9 *Discorea esculenta* tubers displayed as for a customary competitive exchange. The tubers are marked with coloured earth to prevent them being surreptitiously returned to the givers

In another part of the same covered area were displayed a number of large posters showing photographs of fallow stages, yam varieties and gardens, air photographs of the village taken between 1939 and 1986 and graphs of population change. The posters created a great deal of attention and were not able to be taken down until it was too dark to see them properly.

The posters were finally retrieved and will be displayed permanently in the PLEC Site

House (Plate 10). Now habitable with a gas burner and a rainwater tank, the house accommodated seven visitors with ease. The house is also used by Chris Tokomiyer as an office to maintain PLEC records. It is furnished with a number of chairs, and a small library, donated by a Tumam public servant who was posted out of the province.



Plate 10 The PLEC Demonstration Site house at Tumam

Data collection at Tumam has almost ceased. The final agrodiversity surveys in the third year gardens is being completed, and at Dan Zarin's suggestion, a collection of plants growing along the village edges is being made.

Chris Tokomiyer is mapping all sago plantings. Sago, once a very important food in the period between this year's yam garden planting and the harvest of last year's planting, has been supplemented by *Xanthosoma* taro, new bananas and purchased rice. Sago is interesting because it is planted by one generation and harvested by another. Chris is also undertaking a survey of local hunting, under John Sowe's supervision.

The majority of PLEC work for the PNG Cluster in 2001 will revolve around final data entry and analysis. Analysis will focus on the relationships between population growth, land tenure, social organization and agrodiversity and biodiversity, by looking at change over time, beginning probably around 1920, to the present.

### Expert farmers

The experts farmers at Tumam range in age from the mid-30s to the mid-50s, with two, Beretas aged 70 and Abraham Hopotai, now