

## FIELD DAY, BUBIA

A successful field day was held at the DPI Agriculture Research Centre, Bubia, in the Markham Valley, in November. The large crowd which attended included Form II and Form IV students from high schools in Lae, many of whom will be returning to their villages after leaving school. These students attended to find out what crops are viable in the Markham Valley.

In his introductory hand-out, the Agronomist-in-charge of the research centre, Mr Jim Sumbak, made the following remarks.

"Aside from cleaning up a station the aim of any field day is to show things to the public. We hope that the public in general, Departmental staff, and the Bubia Agriculture Experiment Centre will benefit from this opportunity of getting to meet one another. The occasion is an excellent one for research workers to display some of the fruit of their labours and also for the public to comment on these. . . It is important, however, that deficiencies in research be pointed out as it is very easy for research workers to lose touch with reality. We hope this has not been the case at Bubia. We take

the opportunity of encouraging people with technical problems to seek the help of this station. A number of farmers do have close contact with our station and we would like to see these numbers expanded.

"Over the years the function of the station has changed considerably. Whereas, not long ago, virtually all our work was limited to the Markham Valley and the station itself, Bubia staff are now involved in the Ramu Valley, the Madang, East Sepik, Eastern Highlands and Central Provinces as well.

"The work in the Markham and Ramu Valleys deals mainly with sorghum, peanuts, maize, sugar-cane and rice. Coconuts are looked at on Bubia but Omuru near Madang is the main centre where a hybrid coconut seed production scheme is underway. The Sepik work deals with rice while sorghum, maize and peanuts are tested in the Eastern Highlands and Central Provinces.

"Agronomists and Entomologists are on call whenever problems arise. The locust outbreak and green scale problems with coffee in the Wau area are examples of such problems."



Jim Sumbak and Deputy Director Syd Saville welcome visitors to the field day.



**Part of the large crowd of visitors who attended.**



**Primary school children from the nearby Bubia community school also attended.**