

CLIMA grows into phase three at UWA



CLIMA Director, Professor Neil Turner, DAFWA researchers Dr Angelo Loi and Bradley Nutt and GRDC Western Panel Chairman, Neil Young of Kojonup at the commercial release this week of AGWEST Sothis, the world's first commercial variety of Eastern star clover. photo: Brendon Cant and Assoc.

Innovation in legume science and technology remains the focus of the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA) as it moves into its third phase as a research centre within UWA.

CLIMA has been headquartered at UWA's Crawley campus since commencing in 1992 as a Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) and transforming in 2000, after its CRC phase ended, into a research alliance between the WA Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA), UWA, CSIRO and Murdoch University. The current memorandum of understanding between the four partners concludes on June 30, 2007.

Recently the CLIMA Board endorsed a plan to continue CLIMA as a research centre at UWA from July 1, with continued collaboration with DAFWA, CSIRO and Murdoch University. Announcing the new phase, CLIMA Board Chairman and UWA Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Dean, Professor Alistar Robertson said industry input

to CLIMA's operations would be facilitated by the Advisory Board to the UWA Institute of Agriculture. CLIMA Director from 2001 to 2006, Professor Kadambot Siddique, is Director of the Institute.

Professor Neil Turner, who in August last year succeeded Professor Siddique as CLIMA Director, will continue in that role, as originally planned, until retiring at the end of June 2007, when UWA will appoint a new Director. According to Professor Turner, who spent 30 years with CSIRO and has been involved with CLIMA since its inception, CLIMA will retain its focus on beneficial outcomes for WA growers and maintaining strong links to other Australian and overseas legume research groups. The international links include several important projects with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Syria and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India.