



Malawi Agriculture Minister Peter Mwanza, Malawi Agriculture Ministry veterinary scientist Bernard Chimera, African Association of Agricultural Economists president Nick Vink and CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences' Lindsay Bell inspect lateral move irrigation at a Darling Downs mixed irrigated enterprise at Condamine Plains.

A DELEGATION of senior African agriculturalists has gained a first-hand insight into Australian farming during a visit to South East Queensland.

Malawi's Minister for Agriculture and head of veterinary research at the South African Association of Agricultural Economists toured farms and research facilities on the Darling Downs and Lockyer Valley. They had been invited by the Federal Government to visit the region and attend an international forum in Sydney that focused on food security issues in Africa and the role Australia could play.

CSIRO Agricultural Flagship deputy director Peter Carberry, Toowoomba, said the group took particular interest in Queensland because the farming systems were similar to those in Africa.

"They grow maize and sorghum and summer legumes like cow peas and mungbeans," he said. "We grow them as commercial, high-performing crops. They are trying

Africans take closer look at Qld

to lift their systems in Africa."

Dr Carberry said the visitors took particular interest in research relevant to Africa. "There are trials looking at inter-cropping and relay-cropping at Lawes research station and the same trials are repeated ... by our African partners," he said.

The African research was supported by overseas development assistance and scientists from CSIRO, Queensland DAFF and the University of Queensland. Some researchers are doing their PhDs and masters in Australia at the University of Queensland. —Story: NEIL LYON. Pictures: LARELLE McMILLAN.