Trend 1
REGIONAL DIVERGENCE MARKS AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

Per capita agricultural public spending has increased most rapidly in East Asia and the Pacific, especially following the 2008/09 food crisis. Spending in the Middle East and North Africa has also risen. But for the rest of the world, stagnation in agricultural spending has marked the last 35 years, leaving per capita levels in 2014 close to 1980 levels.

Trend 2
DIVERGENCE IS NOT EXPLAINED BY AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

Growth in agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) does not explain the divergence in public spending. East Asia and the Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa both increased spending relative to the size of their agricultural economies; the other regions have shown volatility in spending ratios, but no long-term increase in comparison with agricultural GDP.

Trend 3
A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS, BUT NOT EQUALLY

Agricultural spending in the East Asia and Pacific region appears to be rising with overall public spending, though not as fast as aggregate spending. In fact, the ratio of agricultural to total expenditures fell for much of the period in all regions, with the largest drops in Africa south of the Sahara and Latin America and the Caribbean.