

In Southern Africa, distribution mechanisms and poor monitoring and evaluation have led to farm input subsidy programmes (FISPs) being used to gain **political patronage**.

- ▶ In **Zambia** and **Malawi**, households in districts allied to the ruling political party are more likely to receive subsidies.
- ▶ In **Zimbabwe**, FISPs have helped the ruling party gain political popularity.
- ▶ In **Ghana** and **Tanzania**, FISPs prevent access to the full subsidy by small-scale farmers who demonstrate no political support for the ruling party.

Compounding this issue, a number of fertiliser **cartels\*** have been found to be operating across Southern Africa:

- ▶ In Zambia, a cartel was uncovered between Omnia and Nyiombo Investments.
- ▶ In South Africa, Omnia and Kynoch have been found guilty of cartel behaviour with Sasol.

# FISPs and political patronage

\* A cartel is a group of companies who agree among themselves to sell fertilisers at the same price, so that they can all make profits without competing with one another.

