Agriculture (% of GDP) / GDP per capita

This graph displays agriculture as a percent of GDP on the x-axis and GDP per capita of the y-axis as of the year 2013. All data was gathered from the World Bank at data.worldbank.org.

The relationship I observed was GDP per capita, shown on the y-axis and percent of GDP made up of agriculture, shown on the x-axis. The relationship is definitely negative however the relationship is in no way linear. What I mean by this is that even though countries like Kazakhstan and Sierra Leone have similar a similar GDP per capita, the percent of GDP that is attributed to agriculture is hugely different. Similarly, while Trinidad and Luxembourg both have low agricultural percentages, their GDP per capita differs by tens of thousands of dollars. The returns on a lower agricultural percentage are rapidly increasing. Also, based on the data there exists no country in which they have a high GDP per capita and a high percentage of that GDP being agriculture.

This trend is probably due to the fact that more developed countries are producing more capital goods than agricultural goods. As countries develop economically and cities or factories are built they move toward more and more capital goods. This is a trend seen in many places, including the United States. Poorer countries often stay poor because they do not have the money to invest in factories and other endeavors of the sort. This makes it difficult for them to increase their GDP.