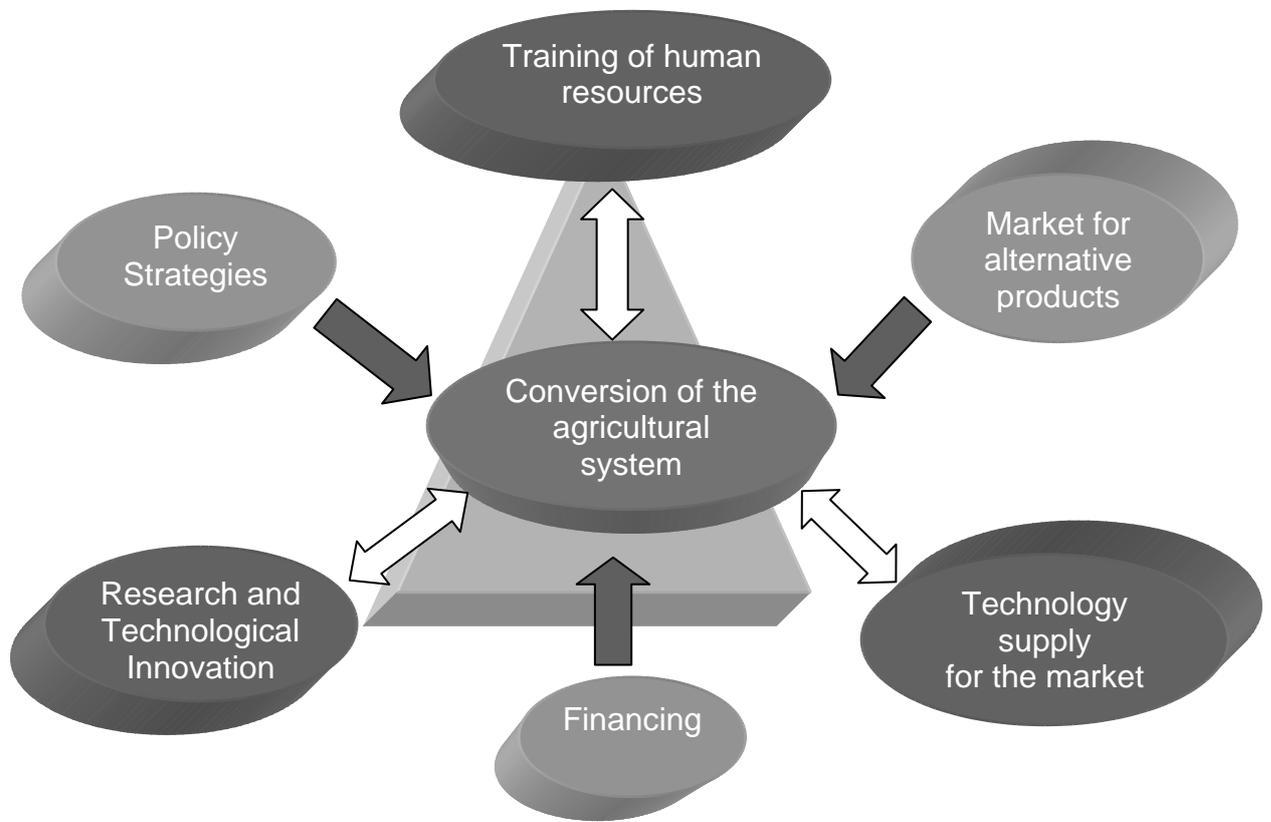
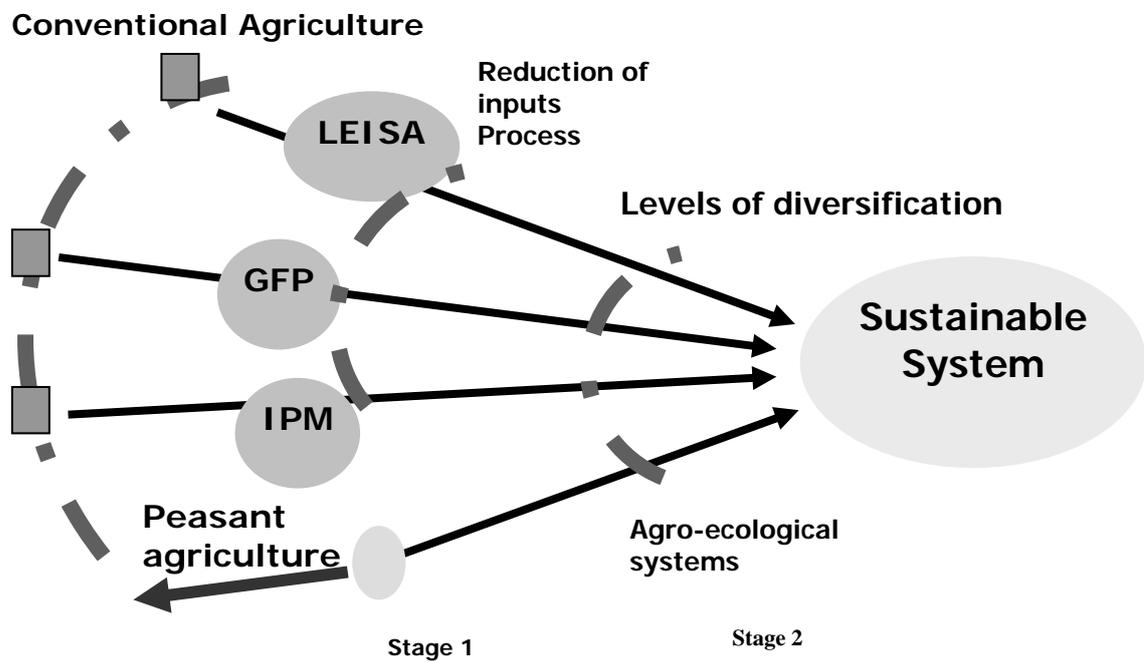


**Figure 5.1** Policies for moving toward sustainable agriculture



Source: Authors elaboration

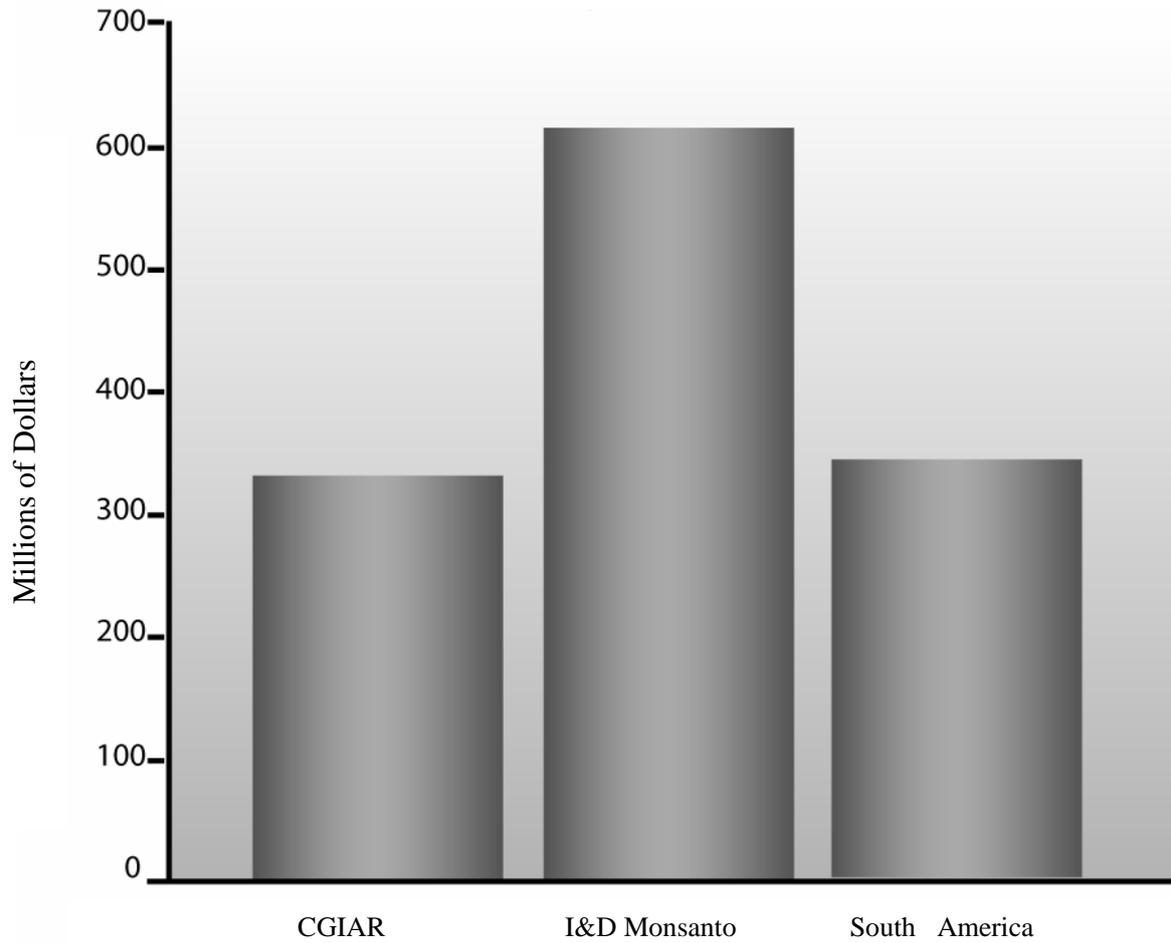
Figure 5.2 Options for the transition to sustainability



Source: Gomero and Velásquez 2003

LEISA = Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture  
GFP = Good farming practices  
IPM = Integrated pest management

**Figure 5.3** Research Budgets of the CGIAR International Agricultural research Centers, Monsanto Corporation, and All National Research programs in South America



Source: World Resources Institute, 1992. Global biodiversity strategy: guidelines for action to save, study, and use Earth's biotic wealth sustainable and equitable. P.10

**Box 5.1 Women in agriculture in the English Speaking Caribbean**

During slavery women worked along the men in the cane fields and their contribution was seen as being equal to the man in the labor force. In more contemporary time, citing Barbados as an example, Barrow (1994) has noted that 61% of the total land holdings in Barbados is farmed by men and only 6% of land in size of 4 ha and more is farmed by women. With respect to holdings of 4 ha and more there is also a predominance of male ownership. It has been globally recognized that women have less access to land and are in the minority with respect to land ownership, they have fewer support services, earn less than men and are in more ways associated with subsistence agriculture. The English speaking Caribbean is no exception. As a result of these constraints many women farm “family lands”.

Family lands is a Caribbean phenomenon, in which there is co-ownership of the land and the rights to the land are transferred from generation to generation irrespective of place of residence of the descendants, birth order or gender. This form of land tenure is prevalent throughout the Caribbean especially in Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent and Grenada. This land tenure form is also more evident in Tobago than in Trinidad.

It has been observed in the Caribbean that unlike female farmers, male farmers have an additional form of gainful employment whereas the woman’s other duties tend to be focused on house work and child rearing. In the case of the woman, the activity of farming and the performance of household duties are merged into one activity. It is the integration of the activity of farming and the conduct of household duties on the part of the woman which underlies the fact that the contribution of women in agriculture can be deemed invisible.

Historically the woman’s place was seen to be in the home, and notwithstanding the fact that women engage in activities which generate income to supplement that of their mates, the research speaks to the family side of the Caribbean woman. This position begs the question as to how this phenomenon is accounted for in an agricultural census and by extension do agricultural policies speak specifically to the needs of Caribbean women in the sphere of agriculture. The perception still persists in the Caribbean that a woman cannot be a “true” farmer, with the capacity to contribute to a country’s economy; that is the domain of the man. On the other hand, the new thinking is that women do farm and contribute to the nation’s economy. In light of the fact that policies are supposed to be gender blind, they are now so formulated that the specific issues of the Caribbean woman in agriculture are subsumed in these gender- blind policies. On both fronts therefore, the contribution of the Caribbean woman to agriculture becomes disguised.

In Trinidad and Tobago in 1989, the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources formed the Organization of Professional Women in Agriculture. This organization is aimed, *inter alia*, at promoting the participation of women in agriculture in the decision making process at all levels of society, both locally and internationally and promoting the application of science and technology of agriculture for the welfare of society.

In spite of the attempts by organizations aimed at addressing issues specifically related to women in agriculture, the contribution of Caribbean women in agriculture is still not afforded the type of attention that it deserves mainly because the woman’s place continues to be seen as being in the home and any agricultural pursuit is merely an extension of the family and the woman’s attempt to supplement the daily meal. As such, issues of access to land, security of tenure and provision of support services remain unaddressed.