The Honduras 1983 study was a study of land tenure focusing on land titling, a program aimed at legalizing private land ownership. The study is based on a probability sample designed to be representative of the regions where a program of land titling was being carried out by the government. A “treatment” and a “control” sample were each selected. The “treatment group consisted of those parcels of land that were designated to be titled by the land reform agency, and only landowners that had received a title or were to receive one were interviewed. The control group consisted of an additional sample of landowners living in a region not scheduled to be included in the titling program.

The study was the first step in a five-year program funded by the USAID Mission in Honduras and was carried out by the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Florida. Field work was conducted by CEPROD (Centro para la Promoción del Desarrollo) from Tegucigalpa with collaboration of the National Statistics Institute (INA) and the National Cadastral Agency of Honduras. Earl Jones and Edgar Nesman led the field teams, with questionnaire design, sample design, training and data analysis led by Mitchell Seligson.

Results of this study were presented in Community and Cooperative Participation Among Land Reform Beneficiaries in Honduras co-authored by Mitchell A. Seligson, Earl Jones and Edgar Nesman and published in the Journal of Rural Cooperation in 1984.

Further analysis of the data gathered through this survey was presented in The Honduras Land Titling and Registration Experience by Mitchell A. Seligson, David Stanfield, Edgar Nesman and Alexander Coles (who participated in later phases of the project) published by the Land Tenure Center of the University of Wisconsin – Madison in June 1990.

Results also contributed to the publication of an article called La Economía Política del Desarrollo Agrario de Honduras, by Mitchell A. Seligson. These publications can be accessed through a link in the LAPOP website, www.lapopsurveys.org.