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Socioeconomics may be under some pressure to define itself that the "classical" sciences. The latter have largely been defined by the conceptualization of real-world processes: biology, for example, arose because of the willingness to better understand the phenomenon of life in its different specificities. Economics arose to study and resolve the issue of scarcity. And sociology was created to analyze the dynamics of societal groups.

But socioeconomics? Its name pays tribute to the existence of sociology and economics, so one might either suspect that socioeconomics is merely a combination of both sciences ($S + E = SE$), or that there is an intersection of sociology and economics which is first termed as socioeconomics ($S \cap E = SE$). Most past attempts to define socioeconomics as a science in its own right may have been motivated to counter such a simplistic understanding of socioeconomics.

In this chapter, we review past attempts to define socioeconomics before the approach is chosen that we applied in this book.

1.1 Approaches Towards Socioeconomics

There is a strong logical proximity between socioeconomics and social economics. Social economics, however, is a discipline with a considerable tradition. Since its early beginnings (Ward 1893), proponents of social economics argue that economics is not just the replication of a biological system in society, but that moral and social considerations always have to be considered. Social economics was called everything that attempted to improve the living standard of the working class (Jay 1891, Cole 1905). This has hardly changed so far. The Association of Social Economic studies on its website that "social economics is the study of the critical and social causes and consequences of economic behavior, institutions, organizations, theory, and policy". It probably would not be necessary to mention that this association had been founded in 1941 as the "Catholic Economic Association" to convince readers