

The Chrome Dinner

tharisa



Nomination: Corporate & Social Responsibility Award

Tharisa minerals agricultural farm initiative tackling hunger and poverty through sustainable agriculture

Nominee

Tharisa Minerals

Award Category

Corporate & Social Responsibility Award

Executive Summary

Tharisa Minerals' Agricultural Farm Initiative is a purpose-driven community development programme that addresses hunger, poverty and food insecurity through sustainable agriculture, practical skills transfer and local enterprise development. Developed in alignment with Tharisa's Social and Labour Plan commitments, the initiative uses available land in Marikana to support crop production, school nutrition programmes and youth-led cooperative development.

The project provides a practical and measurable response to community needs by supplying fresh produce to local schools, strengthening food security for vulnerable learners and families, and creating a platform for agricultural training, entrepreneurship and long-term cooperative ownership. Through investment in land preparation, irrigation, greenhouse infrastructure, poultry facilities, training and production support, Tharisa has established a structured model that creates immediate social benefit while building lasting community resilience.

This nomination demonstrates how responsible mining can create shared value beyond the operational footprint. By combining food security, education support, skills development, environmental stewardship and local economic development, the Agricultural Farm Initiative represents a strong example of corporate social responsibility in action and a worthy submission for the SA Chrome Dinner Awards

Project Overview

The Tharisa Minerals Agricultural Farm Initiative is a community development and food security project established in Marikana to support sustainable crop production, school nutrition programmes and local enterprise development. The initiative is implemented on land made available by Tharisa outside the mining operations area and forms part of the company's broader commitment to responsible mining, socio-economic development and shared value creation.

The project focuses on producing fresh vegetables and supporting agricultural activities that benefit nearby schools and surrounding communities, including learners who rely on school feeding programmes. By linking agricultural production with nutrition support, skills development and cooperative incubation, the initiative responds directly to local challenges of hunger, poverty, unemployment and limited access to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Key project components include land preparation, soil testing, fencing, irrigation and water supply infrastructure, greenhouse tunnels, crop production areas, poultry facilities and a pack house for processing and storage. These components support both immediate food production and longer-term training, mentoring and enterprise development for local participants.

A central feature of the initiative is its sustainability model, which supports the development of a youth-led cooperative through practical training, mentorship and a phased transition towards independent operation. This approach ensures that the project delivers immediate social value while building the capacity, ownership and resilience required for long-term community benefit.

With this project background in place, the motivation for nomination highlights why the initiative is a strong contender for the Corporate & Social Responsibility Award, particularly through its alignment with sustainable development, local economic empowerment and measurable social impact.

Motivation for Nomination

Tharisa Minerals is proud to submit its Agricultural Farm Initiative for consideration in the Corporate & Social Responsibility Award category. Anchored in Tharisa's Social and Labour Plan for the 2024–2028 period, the project demonstrates a structured and sustainable commitment to crop farming, skills development, food security support, local enterprise development and socio-economic upliftment in host communities.

The initiative is located on Portion 146 K/Kraal Farm 342 JQ in Marikana, where Tharisa has made 1,600 hectares of land available outside the mining operations area for the establishment of an agricultural production and training site. The project benefits local communities, unemployed youth and schools including Buffelspoort, Mmaditlhokwa, Lapologang and Marikana, providing practical support to school nutrition programmes and wider community food security.

Beyond food production, the project has been designed as a practical skills development and business incubation platform. Through diversified seed planting, crop production, irrigation, livestock-related infrastructure and agribusiness training, the site equips local participants with hands-on agricultural skills while supporting the

development of a youth-led cooperative that can ultimately operate as an independent income-generating enterprise.

Tharisa's investment includes land preparation, soil testing, fencing, green nets, greenhouse tunnels, chicken layer and broiler units, irrigation and water supply infrastructure, and a pack house for processing and storage. These interventions demonstrate that the initiative is not a short-term donation, but a funded, structured and measurable sustainability programme aimed at building long-term community resilience.

The initiative creates lasting value through:

- Improving food security for vulnerable learners and families.
- Supporting local school nutrition programmes with fresh, healthy produce.
- Promoting community wellbeing and learner development.
- Demonstrating responsible corporate citizenship through sustainable agricultural practices.
- Strengthening relationships between Tharisa and surrounding communities.
- Providing agricultural skills transfer, accredited training opportunities and entrepreneurship support for youth, women and unemployed community members.
- Incubating a local cooperative through a phased exit strategy that supports long-term independence and income generation through crop production sales.

The Agricultural Farm Initiative reflects Tharisa's belief that mining companies have a responsibility to create shared value beyond their operational footprint. Through this project, the company is making a measurable and lasting contribution to the lives of young people while promoting sustainable community development.

The strength of this nomination is further evidenced by the outcomes achieved to date, particularly the initiative's contribution to learner nutrition, community food security, skills development and local enterprise growth.

Impact Achieved

The Agricultural Farm Initiative has delivered practical, visible and community-focused impact by converting Tharisa's sustainability commitments into direct support for learners, schools and neighbouring communities. Through the supply of fresh produce to local school feeding programmes, the initiative has helped improve access to nutritious meals, contributing to learner wellbeing, concentration and the conditions needed for better educational participation.

Its impact is evident across several key areas:

- Improved learner nutrition: Fresh vegetables are supplied to school nutrition programmes, strengthening the quality and nutritional value of meals provided to learners.
- Support for education outcomes: By helping ensure learners are better nourished, the initiative supports concentration, school attendance, classroom participation and overall wellbeing.
- Enhanced community food security: The project contributes to reducing hunger and food vulnerability in neighbouring communities, particularly among children and families who rely on school feeding support.
- Skills development and employability: Training in crop rotation, irrigation, livestock management and agribusiness supports accredited certification, practical work readiness and future entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Local enterprise development: The project incubates a registered youth cooperative, with Tharisa and the Department of Agriculture providing mentoring and monitoring support before responsibility is progressively transferred to the cooperative.
- Sustainable use of managed land: The initiative demonstrates how mining companies can use available land responsibly to create long-term social and environmental value.
- Strengthened school and community partnerships: The initiative reinforces Tharisa's relationship with host communities by responding to a genuine local need in a practical and measurable way.
- A replicable model for shared value: The project provides a scalable example of how the mining sector can integrate environmental stewardship, community development and food security into one meaningful CSR programme.

The sustainability plan reinforces the project's long-term value by positioning the farm as both a production hub and a training centre. It brings together Tharisa's Social Performance team, the Department of Agriculture, AgriSETA, local schools, government authorities and the youth cooperative in a coordinated partnership model focused on food security, skills transfer and enterprise development.

Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate that the Agricultural Farm Initiative is not only producing food; it is creating dignity, resilience and opportunity. It reflects a sustained commitment to improving quality of life, supporting vulnerable learners and building stronger, healthier communities around Tharisa's operations.

These results provide a strong basis for award recognition by demonstrating Tharisa's responsible leadership, practical implementation and sustained value creation in response to genuine community needs.

Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The Agricultural Farm Initiative directly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by addressing food insecurity, promoting community wellbeing, strengthening education outcomes, supporting local economic participation and building partnerships for sustainable development. Its strongest alignment is with the following SDGs:

- **SDG 1: No Poverty** – By supporting local food production, skills development and cooperative incubation, the initiative contributes to poverty reduction by creating practical pathways for livelihood development, income generation and long-term community resilience.
- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger** – The project directly advances food security by producing fresh vegetables for local school nutrition programmes and surrounding communities, helping to reduce hunger and improve access to nutritious food for vulnerable learners and families.
- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being** – By improving access to fresh produce and supporting more nutritious school meals, the initiative contributes to learner wellbeing, better concentration and healthier community outcomes.
- **SDG 4: Quality Education** – The project supports education by strengthening school nutrition programmes, helping learners arrive at school better nourished and more able to participate meaningfully in classroom activities.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Through agricultural training, mentorship and the development of a youth-led cooperative, the initiative supports practical skills transfer, employability, entrepreneurship and local enterprise development.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – By focusing on vulnerable learners, unemployed youth, women and surrounding communities facing socio-economic challenges, the project contributes to more inclusive access to development opportunities and community support.
- **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production** – The initiative promotes responsible use of available land, sustainable agricultural practices, crop production and local food supply, supporting a more resource-efficient and community-centred production model.
- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** – The project is strengthened through collaboration between Tharisa, local schools, government stakeholders, the Department of Agriculture, AgriSETA and the youth cooperative, demonstrating the value of partnerships in delivering measurable community impact.

Through this alignment, the Agricultural Farm Initiative demonstrates how a practical, community-based agricultural project can contribute to broader sustainable

development outcomes while creating immediate and visible value for learners, families, schools and host communities.

Why Tharisa Deserves This Award

Tharisa deserves this award because the Agricultural Farm Initiative is a practical example of corporate social responsibility that moves beyond once-off donations and delivers sustained, visible impact where it matters most: in the daily lives of learners and surrounding communities. By using onsite agricultural production to support school nutrition programmes, Tharisa is addressing hunger and poverty in a way that is both immediate and long term. The initiative provides fresh produce that helps learners access nutritious meals during the school day, supporting concentration, wellbeing, school attendance and the conditions needed for improved educational outcomes.

What makes this initiative particularly worthy of recognition is its integrated approach. It responds to a basic human need — food security — while also supporting education, health, environmental stewardship, skills development, enterprise incubation and community resilience. In doing so, it aligns strongly with Tharisa's broader sustainability framework and SLP commitments, including community wellbeing, education, local economic development, responsible land use, employment creation and meaningful engagement with host communities. It also contributes directly to key United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Partnerships for the Goals.

The project demonstrates that mining companies can create shared value beyond their operational footprint. By cultivating fresh produce on managed land and channelling it into school feeding programmes, Tharisa has created a model that connects responsible resource management with social upliftment. This is not simply a charitable intervention; it is a sustainable, replicable and purpose-driven solution that helps strengthen food security while promoting responsible corporate citizenship.

The sustainability plan further strengthens the nomination through its clear five-year exit strategy. For the first three years, the cooperative is jointly supported by Tharisa's Social Performance Management team, with mentoring from the Department of Agriculture. In the fourth year, the cooperative is expected to operate independently with monthly performance reviews and no financial support, followed by quarterly reviews in the fifth year, when full operational and financial responsibility rests with the cooperative. This phased model demonstrates genuine sustainability, accountability and long-term community ownership.

Tharisa's nomination is further strengthened by the company's wider commitment to social impact. Its 2025 sustainability reporting highlights continued investment in socio-economic development, CSI and community initiatives, including support for education, health, infrastructure, skills development, local procurement and community upliftment. Against this broader backdrop, the Agricultural Farm Initiative stands out as a meaningful project that translates corporate commitments into real benefits for vulnerable learners and families.

This award would recognise an initiative that is relevant, responsive and deeply human. It supports children's ability to learn, helps families and communities facing food insecurity, promotes sustainable agricultural practices and reinforces trust between Tharisa and its host communities. Through this initiative, Tharisa is demonstrating leadership in the chrome and mining sector by showing how responsible business can contribute to healthier, more resilient and more hopeful communities.

Together, these outcomes show how Tharisa is making a meaningful and lasting difference in the fight against hunger and poverty, while setting a strong example of how corporate social responsibility can create shared value for future generations.

Closing Statement

The Agricultural Farm Initiative stands as a powerful demonstration of Tharisa Minerals' commitment to responsible mining that delivers visible, practical and lasting value for host communities. By turning available land into a source of food security, skills development, enterprise creation and community partnership, Tharisa has created a project that responds directly to some of the most pressing social challenges facing learners, families and unemployed youth in Marikana.

More than a farming project, this initiative is a long-term investment in dignity, resilience and opportunity. It shows how corporate social responsibility can move beyond compliance and contribution to create measurable human impact, strengthen community trust and build a pathway towards sustainable local ownership. For these reasons, Tharisa Minerals respectfully submits the Agricultural Farm Initiative as a compelling and deserving contender for the Corporate & Social Responsibility Award.



Tharisa Minerals Agricultural Farm Initiative

Tackling Hunger and Poverty Through Sustainable Agriculture
Corporate & Social Responsibility Award Nomination

A high-impact CSR initiative delivering food security, learner wellbeing, skills development and long-term community ownership in Marikana.

Purpose Recognition Value

Transforms available land into a productive agricultural hub supporting school nutrition, food security and youth enterprise pathways.

A structured, funded and scalable shared-value model connecting responsible mining with practical upliftment and local ownership.

Impact at a Glance

● Food security • skills • community resilience ●

 Food Security Fresh produce for schools	 Learner Wellbeing Nutrition supports learning	 Skills Transfer Practical agri-government, youth training	 Partnerships Schools, Cooperative pathway	 Enterprise Growth Cooperative pathway	 Sustainable Land Use Land to lasting value
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Summary & Key Achievements

A sustainable, community-led model converting under-utilised land into food security, skills development and enterprise opportunity.

✓ Fresh produce for schools | ✓ Youth cooperative pathway | ✓ Training and mentorship | ✓ Replicable shared-value model

Community Value

- Fresh produce supports school feeding.
- Nutrition supports concentration and wellbeing.
- Training builds employability and enterprise readiness.
- Cooperative incubation supports independence.

Sustainability & Shared Value

- Responsible land use creates social value.
- Infrastructure and mentoring build resilience.
- A phased exit strategy enables ownership.
- The model is practical, replicable and mining-aligned.

SDG Alignment

SDG 1 No Poverty | SDG 2 Zero Hunger | SDG 3 Good Health | SDG 4 Quality Education | SDG 8 Decent Work | SDG 17 Partnerships

From land to livelihoods: cultivating food security, dignity, skills and sustainable opportunity for future generations.