

By Peter Muthambi

Mahatlani Primary school ends second in the Nestlé Community Nutrition Awards

The Mahatlani Primary school from Hlanganani was applauded by many for ending second in the 2011 Nestlé Community Nutrition Awards. The winners of the competition were announced during a ceremony held at Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg last Wednesday.

Nestlé South Africa has been running the awards for the past 17 years.

The Nestlé Community Nutrition Awards project addresses rural development, nutrition and water issues, which are fundamental pillars of the company's Creating Shared Value (CSV) business

philosophy. CSV states that for a business to be successful in the long run, it needs to create value for the communities where it operates.

The Hlanganani-based school, Mahatlani, established a vegetable garden at the back of their classrooms. They then entered for the competition where they competed against other schools across the country.

The school was awarded a cheque of R10 000 and a certificate. The Tzaneen-based Sikhathi Primary scooped up first position and received R15 000.

According to the deputy principal of Mahatlani, Mr Michael Ngwenya, when they started the vegetable garden at the school in February this year, "our aim was to alleviate poverty in the community and, at the same time, promote farming by encouraging pupils to consider farming as a career."

Ngwenya said that the programme promoted the spirit of entrepreneurship as pupils were also taught to sell vegetables to the community. "The garden is also included in the curriculum and pupils are taught in the garden. Grade 2 to 7 pupils do the garden themselves, under the supervision of teachers," he added.

Mahatlani caters for Grade R to Grade 7 pupils. Vegetables in the garden include spinach, cabbage and onions.



Mahatlani Primary school's deputy principal, Mr Michael Ngwenya (left), and a teacher, Mrs Margareth Ngobeni (right) display the prizes they won during the Nestlé Community Nutrition Awards.