



# GDIZ NEWSLETTER

September to December 2023



## DISCOVER IN THIS EDITION

- The world's largest integrated textile park opens at GDIZ
- GDIZ is dedicated to spearhead digitisation of agriculture in Benin
- Visits within GDIZ
- GDIZ events
- Our certifications and awards
- Did you know?
- Operational Factories and under construction/ installation

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST INTEGRATED TEXTILE PARK OPENS AT GDIZ

GDIZ will host the largest integrated textile industrial complex, covering everything from spinning to garment manufacturing, including weaving, knitting, and dyeing.

Spanning 50 hectares, this park comprises three integrated units that will process 40,000 tons per year, accounting for 12.7% of the total annual cotton fiber produced in Benin. GDIZ Textile Park will generate over 20,000 direct jobs, providing significant opportunities for the youth of Benin.

### Production chain of the park

- 
**Spinning :**  
Ring spinning, Rotor spinning, Vortex spinning
- 
**Weaving :**  
Air jet weaving, Water jet weaving, Projectile weaving, Rapier weaving
- 
**Knitting :**  
Circular knitting, Flat knitting
- 
**Processing :**  
Preparation, Dyeing, Printing, Finishing
- 
**Manufacturing :** Knitwear, Woven garments, Home textiles and ready-to-wear, Denim clothing

## PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF GDIZ TEXTILE PARK

 **16 MILLION**  
Towels per year

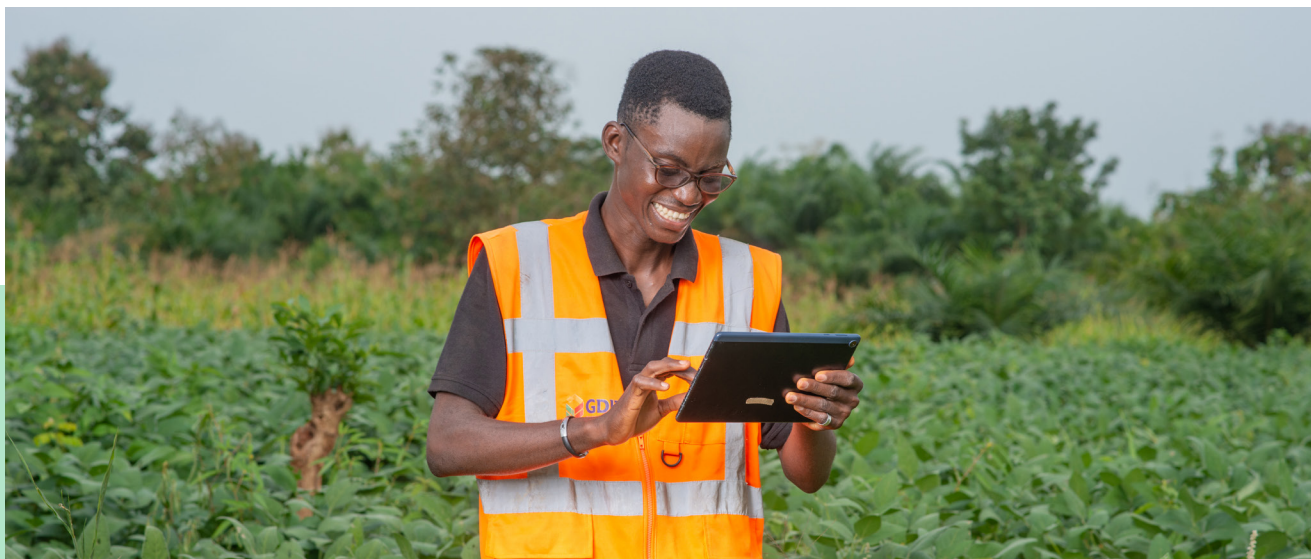
 **3,5 MILLION**  
Shirts per year

 **3,5 MILLION**  
Underwear per year

 **20 MILLION**  
Polo shirts, T-shirts, leggings, and nightwear per year

 **1,8 MILLION**  
Bedding per year

# GDIZ IS DEDICATED TO SPEARHEAD DIGITISATION OF AGRICULTURE IN BENIN



Agricultural digitisation refers to the use of digital technologies in farming and related activities. The digital transformation of agriculture not only enhances agricultural efficiency but also contributes to increased productivity by using optimal resources, ensuring sustainability throughout the value chain.

The benefits of connected devices and other digital technologies in agriculture are substantial. Technologies such as sensors and Internet of Things (IoT) provide farmers with more accurate information for timely decision-making. Farmers cultivating in rain-dependent areas gain precise insights into soil moisture and actual water needs, while those exposed to crop failures receive information on weather, insects, pests, etc. This enables farmers to practice precision agriculture with highly optimised resources. The use of digital tools by farmers facilitates traceability, price attractiveness, and sustainability in the supply chain.

As a key player in the digitisation of agriculture in Benin, SIPI-BENIN S.A. has developed a digital application named "Arise Farmer Information System (AFIS)". This platform records details of fields and crops, agricultural activities, warehouses, potable water availability, etc. By December 2023, over 117,663 farmers from various regions of Benin have already been registered. The creation and updating of this digital database will speed up the sustainable development of agriculture in Benin. SIPI-BENIN S.A. has set up a system for registering other farmers in Benin. Additionally, the company will develop new digital tools to promote sustainable production and the supply of various commercial crops in Benin, such as cotton, cashew nuts, shea, and pineapples.

## SOME KEY FIGURES REGISTERED IN AFIS DATABASE (FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2023)



**Farmers registered :** 117,663



**Total land holding (ha) :** 796,937



**Farms mapped :** 137,064



**Total cropped area (ha) :** 503,144



**Cooperatives registered :** 33



**Cooperatives surveyed :** 181



**Clean water supply :** 401



**Buying center :** 40



**Warehouse :** 70



**Farmers training program across regions :**  
+100



## VISITS WITHIN GDIZ



### THE “CAISSE DES DÉPÔTS ET CONSIGNATIONS (CDEC)” FROM CAMEROON VISITED GDIZ

On Thursday August 31, 2023, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDEC) of Cameroon, headed by Mr. Richard Evina Obam, visited GDIZ, as part of a benchmarking and experience-sharing mission. Led by Mrs. Maryse Lokossou, Managing Director of the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations du Bénin (CDC Bénin), the delegation included the Benin Resident Director of KfW Development Bank.

The CDEC's visit within GDIZ enabled the delegation to discover the first factories financed by CDC Benin and the major achievements of the Beninese government in the industrial sector.

At the end of this enriching visit, CDEC Cameroon delegation left convinced that GDIZ will play an essential role in Benin's economic development.



### DR. ABDOULAYE BALDÉ, FORMER SENEGALESE MINISTER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF APIX-S.A., DISCOVERED GDIZ

On October 12, 2023, GDIZ had the honour of welcoming a Senegalese delegation led by Dr. Abdoulaye Baldé, former Senegalese minister and Managing Director of Investments Promotion and Major Works Agency (APIX-S.A).

The delegation had the opportunity to discover the progress of GDIZ through a guided tour of the Zone's major infrastructures.

Following the visit, a working session was held, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussions on the operation of the industrial zone, its economic model, and the crucial role of the administrative authority in the success of the project. These discussions mark a significant step towards the creation of an Industrial Zone in Senegal.

GDIZ is proud to share its expertise and contribute to the establishment of Industrial Zones in Africa.

*“It is with great pride that I observe the progress made by Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) over the past 30 months in the framework of the partnership between ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) and the Republic of Benin. APIX-S.A. is firmly committed to the development of the Integrated Special Economic Zone of Diass (ZESID) and aims to draw inspiration from the success of GDIZ to create an equally prosperous Industrial Zone.”* Dr. Abdoulaye Baldé, former minister and Managing Director of Investments Promotion and Major Works Agency (APIX-S.A).



# VISITS WITHIN GDIZ



## NEW INVESTMENT PROSPECTS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND SOUTH KOREA !

The Managing Director of SIPI-Benin S.A., Mr. Létondji Beheton, had the honor of hosting Saudi investor Dr. Nasser Bin Kadash, representing a consortium of South Korean and Saudi investors, on Thursday, November 2, 2023, in the presence of Dr. Zul Kifl Salami, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Benin.

This visit is the result of an audience granted on August 4, 2023, by H.E. Mr. Patrice Talon, President of the Republic of Benin, to Mr. Sidi Ould Tah, President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). Following this meeting, the President of BADEA committed to support Benin in its economic development by inviting economic operators affiliated with BADEA to invest in Benin.

Impressed by the quality of infrastructure and the advantages offered by GDIZ, Dr. Nasser Bin Kadash has decided to establish a PET plastic recycling plant within the Zone.

*“I believe that this visit will have extraordinary consequences on the national economy as major companies from South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Japan will come to invest in GDIZ”* said Dr. Zul Kifl Salami.



## GDIZ WELCOMES THE SOUTH KOREAN MINISTER FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

GDIZ was honoured to welcome Mr Kisun Bang, South Korea's Minister for Government Affairs, and his delegation on Tuesday November 14, 2023.

Present in Benin as part of the collaboration between South Korea and Benin, Minister Kisun Bang visited GDIZ. After a presentation of the Zone's project, the Minister was given a guided tour of the infrastructures and industries already operating within the Zone.



# VISITS WITHIN GDIZ



## NEW WORKING SESSION WITH MINISTER OF STATE, MR. ABDOULAYE BIO TCHANÉ AT GDIZ

On Friday, December 8, 2023, GDIZ had the honour of welcoming Mr. Abdoulaye Bio Tchané, Benin's Minister of State for Development and Government Action Coordination, and his delegation at GDIZ for a new working session with the Zone's leaders.

Several topics were on the agenda, including the presentation of the development work for the second phase, the installation of approved investors, the strengthening of security measures, and the starting of the Residential Zone work.

The Minister announced an imminent study to be carried out by his office for the development of healthcare centers, schools, and housing. This study will be shared with GDIZ to support the development of the Zone.

The Minister also highlighted the need for the development of training centers and incubators to align the skills of learners with the recruitment needs of current and future investors.

The working session concluded with a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facilities of the first integrated unit of GDIZ textile park, one of the largest in the world. This unit will process 20,000 tones of Benin's cotton fiber, from spinning to garment production. The factory will employ approximately 5,000 young Beninese individuals, making a significant contribution to job creation in Benin.



## “RENCONTRE ÉCONOMIQUE BÉNIN-FRANCE” : 35 FRENCH INVESTORS EXPLORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT GDIZ !

From December 4 to 6, 2023, the “Rencontre Économique Bénin-France” took place in Cotonou, focusing on two priority themes: agriculture and agribusiness, as well as sustainable cities.

The goal of this event was to enable the participating French investors to identify and develop new industrial partnerships in Benin.

Over three days, these investors experienced a rich and immersive program, combining an Agribusiness business forum, meetings with Benin's public/private ecosystem, personalised business meetings, roundtable discussions, and site visits, including the not-to-be-missed Glo-Djigbe Industrial Zone (GDIZ).

Organised by Bpifrance in collaboration with Business France, the Agence de Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations (APIEx Bénin), SIPI-BÉNIN S.A, the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Bénin (CCI BÉNIN) and the Conseil National du Patronat (CNP BÉNIN), the “Rencontre Économique Bénin France” allowed French investors to explore new investment opportunities in Benin and at GDIZ.

**“GDIZ reflects the boldness and innovation of Benin : an inspiration for African countries due to its immense potential for industrial development. We are committed to support, co-finance, and co-invest in agribusiness projects, as a demonstration of our faith in the vision and promising future of Benin!”** Mr. Arnaud Floris, Africa Coordinator — Bpifrance

# GDIZ EVENTS

## GDIZ TAKES PART IN THE “FORUM INTERNATIONAL DU CADRE DE VIE (FIC)”

The “Forum International du Cadre de Vie (FIC)” is an annual gathering of experts and professionals in the field of living environment and housing. This event is a benchmark for architecture, urban planning, affordable housing, interior design, and any other topics related to spaces and their development. FIC is also an opportunity to discover the latest trends in construction, decoration, new architectural technologies for objects, furniture, and materials.

Under the topic “Building a Sustainable Living Environment”, the 2023 edition of FIC took place from September 28 to October 2, 2023, in Cotonou, with various activities such as conferences, roundtable discussions, workshops, exhibitions, etc.

GDIZ’s participation in this forum highlighted the Zone’s commitment to promoting innovation and sustainable development.”



## GDIZ HONORED DURING BENIN CASHEW WEEK 2023

Benin Cashew Week, an initiative by TechnoServe Benin, took place from October 2 to October 4, 2023, at the Palais des Congrès in Cotonou. This event is an opportunity to showcase the entire cashew value chain in Benin and highlight the remarkable progress made in the cashew sector in recent years.

During this forum, GDIZ presented its industrial potential in the cashew sector in Benin and Africa during panel discussions, as well as its crucial role in the sustainable development of the cashew value chain in Benin. Through an exhibition stand, GDIZ also showcased various products and by-products from each step of cashew nut processing within GDIZ factories.

## KEY INFORMATION ON CASHEW NUT PROCESSING AT GDIZ



**05 production units (already operational)**

**Processing capacity :** 120,000 tons of raw cashew nuts per year



**Finished products :** Cashew kernels



**Jobs created :** 2000 direct and 500 indirect (December 2023)



**01 production unit (under installation)**



**Finished products :** Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL) and biochar



# GDIZ EVENTS



## PINK OCTOBER: GDIZ SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER PREVENTION AND SCREENING

At GDIZ, the health and well-being of employees are a priority. In the month of October, dedicated to breast cancer awareness, GDIZ organised a series of activities aimed at preventing and combating this disease. Among these activities, awareness sessions were conducted by the Zone's occupational health physicians to highlight the importance of early detection and preventive measures. The Zone's staff also took part in screening sessions, showing GDIZ's proactive determination in the fight against breast cancer.



## GDIZ PROMOTES EXCELLENCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

On October 20, 2023, the "Annual Aggregators Meeting 2023" was held, organised by GDIZ. This event brought together aggregators from various departments in Benin to discuss business opportunities and partnerships for the 2023/2024 agricultural campaign.

During this meeting, presentations focused on raw material quality control and aggregation techniques.

Certificates of recognition were awarded to aggregators who had performed exceptionally well during the previous campaign.

GDIZ is pleased to promote best agricultural practices and support the growth of this sector in Benin.



## GDIZ PROMOTES SUSTAINABLE, SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRIALISATION !

On Friday, October 27, 2023, GDIZ proudly launched the SAFER (Safety, Support, Training, Evaluation, Network) unit, reaffirming the Zone's commitment to international Quality, Health, Safety and Environment (QHSE) standards.

Through the SAFER unit, GDIZ is committed to reducing industrial incidents and accidents by providing investors in the Zone with personalised consulting, training, and support services. This commitment aims to strengthen worker safety, enhance operations, and protect the environment within the Zone."

# GDIZ EVENTS

## GDIZ AT THE INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR (IATF) 2023 : BENINESE EXCELLENCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

“Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF)” is a significant trade fair promoting “Made in Africa” goods and services. It is an initiative that supports the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and is organised by the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the AfCFTA Secretariat. IATF serves as a unique and privileged platform for businesses to access an integrated African market of over 1.3 billion people.

GDIZ is proud to have participated in the 2023 edition of this event, held from November 9 to 15, 2023, in Cairo, Egypt. This opportunity showcased “Made in Benin” garments and highlighted the exceptional talent of young Beninese contributing to their production within the Garment Training and Production Center of the Zone.

Presented to participants at this prestigious forum, these productions also received praise from Mr. Didier Drogba, an African football icon. He congratulated Arise Integrated

Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP) for its commitment to the industrialisation of Africa.

Furthermore, ARISE IIP was also awarded the prize for the “Best Stand for Doing Business” at IATF 2023.

**GDIZ is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Government of the Republic of Benin and ARISE IIP, specialising in the development of industrial infrastructure and dedicated ecosystems in Africa. It designs tailored solutions to enable sustainable and local transformation of raw materials, boost exports, and promote job creation.**





## GDIZ EVENTS



### GDIZ SHOWCASES BENIN AT THE CHOISEUL AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM 2023 !

Benin, experiencing rapid economic growth, stands out on the African continent with sustained development and was spotlighted on November 16 and 17 in Casablanca during the Choiseul Africa Business Forum 2023. The country was represented at the highest level by Mrs. Mariam Chabi Talata, Vice President of the Republic of Benin.

The panel “Invest in Benin,” with the participation of Mr. Létondji Beheton, Managing Director of Société d’Investissement et de Promotion de l’Industrie (SIPI-BENIN S.A.), highlighted the reasons to invest in Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ).

Moderated by Mr. Adetoye Aguessy, CEO of RightCom, the “Invest in Benin” panel also brought together notable Beni-

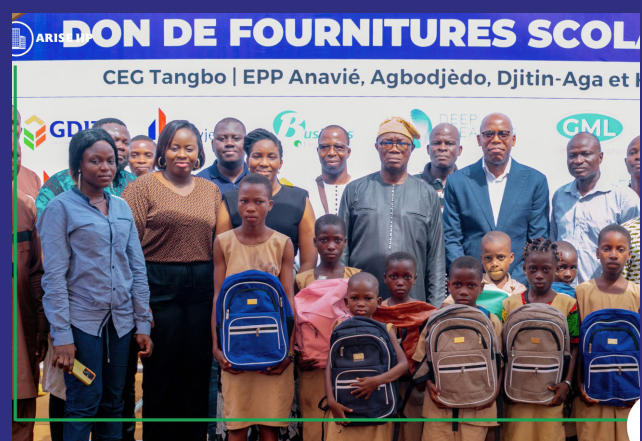
nese figures such as Mr. Eric Akoute (Director of Studies at Agence de Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations - APIEx BENIN), Mrs. Maryse Lokossou (Managing Director of Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation - CDC Benin), Mr. William Codjo (Managing Director of Agence de Développement des Arts et de la Culture - ADAC Bénin), and Mr. Moïse-Achille Houssou (Managing Director of Société Immobilière et d’Aménagement Urbain - SI MAU Bénin).

Benin’s remarkable participation in Choiseul Africa Business Forum 2023 has positioned GDIZ as a must-consider destination for investors looking to set up in Africa.

### GDIZ DONATES SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO THE PUPILS AND STUDENTS OF ZÈ

On Thursday, November 2, 2023, GDIZ lent its support to more than 3,000 pupils and students in the commune of Zè through the distribution of school kits worth 12 million XOF. This action, which is part of the Zone’s commitment to local community development, took place in the public primary school of Houézè, in the presence of the local authorities and other key players in the education sector.

GDIZ is pleased to support local communities for the 3rd consecutive school year.



# OUR CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS



## GDIZ, NOW LEED CERTIFIED

GDIZ takes another step towards sustainability by obtaining the prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification, becoming the first LEED certified in Benin.

LEED Certification is a guarantee of sustainability excellence in construction. It rewards energy efficiency, water saving, waste management and air quality in construction, aspects to which GDIZ attaches the utmost importance.

With this certification, GDIZ becomes a model of sustainability in West Africa.

## PIONEER IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: ARISE IIP WINS REUTERS AWARD THANKS TO GDIZ

Thanks to Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ), ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP), developer and operator of world-class Industrial Zones in Africa, has won the Reuters “Pioneer in Sustainable Development” award. This distinction honours GDIZ and Benin.

ARISE IIP received this award during the 14th edition of the “Responsible Business Awards” organised by Reuters. The announcement was made at a ceremony in London where more than 280 finalists from around the world gathered to celebrate excellence in corporate sustainability. ARISE IIP was also shortlisted for the “Circular Transition” award.

The “Responsible Business Awards” is a world-renowned event that brings together the companies that are transforming the world in terms of sustainable development. With over 700 applications from 51 countries, Arise IIP was selected by



an independent panel of 25 experts from around the world based on the innovation and impact of its activities.

This year, the Reuters “Pioneer in Sustainable Development” award goes to the Garment Training and Production Centers within GDIZ, where about 1,000 young Beninese, including 60% of women, receive skills training.



## DID YOU KNOW ?



### A NEW ERA FOR CROSS-BORDER TRADE : NIGERIA AND BENIN REMOVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON 43 PRODUCTS

In an unprecedented initiative, Benin and Nigeria have jointly removed foreign exchange restrictions on 43 products, including food items, textiles, industrial goods, cosmetics, transportation, and construction materials.

These collaborative efforts mark a significant turning point in the relationship between these countries and herald a new era of economic cooperation.

The removal of these restrictions presents a significant opportunity for industries within GDIZ aiming to target the Nigerian market.

Indeed, GDIZ plays a crucial role in the transformation of several of the 43 products mentioned, thereby generating significant value for the sub-region. The removal of restrictions significantly amplifies economic opportunities associated with the production of these products: another reason to invest in Benin and target a global market of over 250,000,000 consumers.

#### Below is the list of the concerned products :

- **Food Products** : Rice, margarine, palm kernel, palm oil-based products, vegetable oils, meat and meat products, processed vegetables, processed plant products, poultry and poultry-based products, canned fish in sauce (Geisha)/sardines, toothpicks, glass and glassware items, kitchen utensils, tableware, gas bottles, tomato purchases/tomato concentrates.
- **Textile** : Woven fabrics, clothing.
- **Construction Materials** : Cement, cold-rolled steel sheets, galvanized steel sheets, wheelbarrows, pot heads, metal boxes and containers, enamel articles, steel drums,

steel pipes, deformed and non-deformed wire, iron bars, reinforcement bars, wire mesh, steel nails, steel fences and safety and razor poles, wood particle boards and panels, fiberboard panels and panels, plywood boards and panels, wooden doors, glazed and ceramic tiles.

- **Industry/Transport** : Aircraft/private jets.
- **Cosmetics and Miscellaneous** : Indian incense, soaps, and cosmetics.

#### Key Figures on Nigeria :

- 📍 Area : 923,768 km<sup>2</sup>
- 👤 Population : 219 million inhabitants (2022)
- 🗣️ Official Language : English
- 🏙️ Capital : Abuja
- 🌍 Region : West Africa (300 million inhabitants)

**Currency** : Naira (1 USD = 803.00 Naira)

**GDP** : \$440.8 billion USD (2021)

**GDP Growth** : 3.6%

**Memberships**: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

# DID YOU KNOW ?

## PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF SOYA PROCESSING UNITS WITHIN GDIZ



**Benin Organics (organic soya) :** 60,000 tonnes of soya per year



**NAP (conventional soya):** 50,000 tonnes of soya per year



**Benin Agribusiness (conventional soya):** 150,000 tonnes of soya per year



**1st phase / 400 hectares:** Currently 260,000 tonnes of soya per year



**By the end of 2024 :** 600,000 tonnes of soya per year

## DETAILS OF PLANTS ALREADY IN OPERATION AND THOSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION/INSTALLATION

### Plants already operational (+10,000 direct jobs already created)



#### Cotton Transformation

- o Textile Production Unit 1
- o Textile Production Unit 2



#### Cashew Nut Processing

- o Kaju / Benin Cashew 1
- o Kaju / Benin Cashew 2
- o Kaju / Benin Cashew 3
- o Kaju / Benin Cashew 4
- o Kaju / Benin Cashew 5



#### Soybean Processing (Organic and Conventional)

- o Benin Organics
- o Benin Agribusiness



#### Packaging

- o Unicarton



#### Concrete Plants

- o SIBP
- o Concrete Solutions Benin (CSB)

### Factories under construction/installation (+40,000 new jobs projected for 2024)



#### Cotton Processing

- o GDIZ Textile Park with 03 integrated textile units
- o Lotus Corporation
- o Krishi Agro



#### Cashew Nut Processing

- o Benin Cashew S.A. (CNSL & Biochar)



#### Soybean Processing (Organic & Conventional)

- o NAP Sarl



#### Pharmaceutical Products

- o FHC Medica



#### Others

- o Provendes Benin
- o Spiro
- o Comfort Meuble
- o CDF-AKAD
- o B-STEEL
- o Afrikan Ceramics Solutions





*Happy new year*  
**2024**

In this New Year 2024, Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone celebrates our shared commitment to propelling Benin forward at industrial speed. May this year be filled with extraordinary achievements, continued growth and shared success:





## **GLO-DJIGBÉ INDUSTRIAL ZONE (GDIZ)**

**Catalyst of transformation**

Block: C/SB, District : Tangbo-Djèvié,  
Plot: F-1, House : BENIN STATE  
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