

# THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

**TODAY IN LHS SPORTSGROUND WAS ORGANIZED THE CHRISTMAS MARKET FOR CELEBRATE THE END OF THE YEAR**

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, the COMILOG organized the Christmas market (that is connected with Saint Barbara on 4<sup>th</sup> December) to celebrate the end of 2024 and give young people new knowledge on various domains such as:

- Environment
- Ecology
- Food
- Gardening... all that play a big role in our well being and good health.

All market management was supervised by [Mrs. Andrea GONDJOUT AZIZET](#) and her office staff under the Public Relations Office. And many specialists and volunteers did their best to make the event enjoyable for everyone.



The Moanda cooperative participated largely in this event.

The children's favorite attraction was surely the inflatable slide when everyone could have a funny time while being in safety. They were able to let off steam with something they are not used to see in Moanda.



We can note that the attractions fore children were rented by the COMILOG to the company SOBRAGA where the headquartered is located in Owendo (Libreville). And all attractions, from the slide to the swing or the turnstiles, everything was supervised by and adult which means that all the children were in safe conditions and that everyone was able to take turns and have a good time.

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**L**ike said before, the Christmas market was an occasion to discover more about many domains, by example: **livestock**. Livestock is not a very important income sector in Moanda or in the broad sense of terms in Gabon.

But between 2011 and 2016, nearly 1000 farms (market gardens, food crops, livestock and processing workshops) were installed, with an enabling production of 7000 tonnes/year for an annual turnover of 2.9 billions of FCFA. That's a pretty weak income compared to the two biggest sectors of Gabon, Mining sector with an income per year of 75.3 billions and the oil industry that represents 80% of exportations, 45% of the GDP and 60% of the country's tax revenues. All of this for saying that the farming and agricultural sector is not very developed in Gabon. That why some experts had the good idea of bringing one thing of two to show to young people that the field of agriculture and livestock are still a field in full development and full of future for them. Like in the photo where we can see some chickens and pigs in cage, which are excellent for a farm due to their sedentary and easily to tame nature.

In the market, some specialists also brought local plants such as: papaya, pineapple, soursop (corossol) and lemon (the african specie), and even more things such as manioc (probably the most eaten condiment in Moanda or more widely in Haut-Ogooué.

Inside are also some local legume like peanut (arachide), cucumber, yam (igname), taro, sugar cane (especially used by the Haut-Ogooué sugar company SUCAF which produces the majority of sugar in Gabon.

Each of these foods is local and is 100% organic and this trade create many jobs for youngsters, and allows the inhabitants of Moanda to eat organic and natural food. Which nowadays is a good thing with all the pesticides that we use in intensive agriculture, for example among our neighbors the Cameroonians where the agricultural sector represents a large part of their GPD.





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As you we can see, the youngsters were really having a good time about learning about every plant and volunteers seemed to have had fun explaining to them the benefits of all these differents foods for their health.



Also, did you know that peanut have many benefits for body :

- \_ It protects against heart illnesses
- \_ It fight against anemia
- \_ Prevents type II diabetes
- \_ Help for losing health

**(But don't abuse of peanut oil!)**



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**B**eside the plants, at the event were also some stands specializing in jewelry.



As you can see here there was also at the market were also shown some beautiful and totally handmade beauty accessories like: Necklaces, earrings, handbags, or even loincloths (pagnes). The topic of the Christmas Market was to show the beautifulness of Gabonese culture and its many benefits.

Many designs can be used for traditional clothes.

And even natural creams and beauty products made by local ingredients.

Beauty can be made even with local products and the Christmas Market is a good place to experience it.

And more beauty products can be produced like creams for skin, foundation, Vaseline...

And the best things about those things are that it can be used by everyone: men, women and kids or teenagers...everyone can be in good health and feel good in their skin.

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