The Kenya Arid and Semi Arid Lands (KASAL) project through the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) set up an irrigation system at KARI’s Katumani-Kiboko in the tune of KES 7 million. The facility whose construction was started in 2008 covers 81 acres and is aimed the multiplication of 9 cassava varieties which were developed by KARI-Katumani in partnership with farmers and other stakeholders. Scarcity of cassava planting materials is the cause of the establishment of this system.

When fully operational, the system is expected to provide 10,000,000 million cuttings at staggered intervals in a year in order to provide enough cuttings throughout the year and especially at the beginning of every planting season in the drylands of southeastern arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Kenya. The projection is for the system to commercialise and continue operations after the project.
Water pumps in the machine room

The water pump room
Pump metres
Water is pumped to the cassava field through underground pipes
Cassava irrigation at different stages of growth

Sprinkler head