Almond research started in the present-day CITA de Aragón in 1964, with the incorporation of Dr. Antonio J. Felipe, when almond was not even considered as a fruit tree. Work during the first decades showed up that the problems of almond production in Spain were mainly due to two deficiencies: lack of a correct pollination and frost damage. This knowledge led to initiating a breeding program with two main objectives: self-compatibility to overcome the pollination problem and late blooming in order to have cultivars blooming when the main frost risks were over.

The three first cultivars from this program were released in 1979, among them 'Gua ra', at present the reference cultivar in all the Spanish almond-growing regions. The breeding program has been carried on, releasing new cultivars in order to satisfy the quality requirements of the international market with compositional traits more adapted to the commercial and industrial determining factors, such as 'Isabelo' and 'Soleta', as well as very late blooming cultivars, such as 'Diamar' and 'Volvia'. All of them are self-compatible, without the need of cross-pollination nor pollinating insects, and with a progressive opening time allowing a gradual harvest.
Isabelona

Tree: Medium vigor and semi-erect growth habit.

Flower: Blooms 3 days before 'Guara', with white flowers of medium-large size, mainly on spurs and less on mixed shoots. Good flower density.

Fruit: Ripening 16 days after 'Guara', hard shell, without double layers, heart shaped, shell thinning percentage of 27-35%, the kernel filling the shell cavity. Large kernel, without double kernels, of roundish shape, very similar to 'Marcoana', although slightly poriferous and flatter, thus making blanching easier. Very high oil content, Jn and oleic in its composition, and very good taste. Very good commercial aspect and slightly sweet.

Quality: It has very high contents of oil and oleic acid in its composition, as well as of other valuable antioxidants, thus meeting in one of the cultivars of extremely high quality.

Soleta

Tree: Medium vigor and slightly erect growth habit, very well adapted to high density planting.

Flower: Blooms 3 days before 'Guara', with white flowers of medium-large size, mainly on spurs and less on mixed shoots. Very high flower density.

Fruit: Ripening 20 days after 'Guara', hard shell, without double layers, elliptical shape, shell thinning percentage of 35-40%, the kernel filling the shell cavity. Large kernel, without double kernels, of oblong shape, very similar to 'Desmaio Lagarto', of very good commercial aspect and taste slightly sweet.

Quality: It has very easy shell removal after roasting and very good taste. Its composition shows average value for most components, but the content in oleic acid is very high.

Diamar

Tree: Medium vigor and slightly erect growth habit, with tolerance to diseases.

Flower: Blooms 3 days before 'Guara', with white flowers of medium size, both on spurs and mixed shoots. High flower density, regular over the years.

Fruit: Ripening 9 days after 'Guara', hard shell, heart shaped, pointed, with slight double layers, filling percentage 25-30%. Medium to large kernel, without double kernels, of very good commercial aspect and good taste.

Quality: Its composition shows average value for most components, but content in fats and carotene is extremely high.